遠藤浩輝
HIROKI ENDOU

2

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）

EVENING KC

講談社

EVENING KC281

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）

ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

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遠藤浩輝

講談社

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I can't do a back flip on the horizontal bar. Now, there's no need for a middle-aged guy like myself to be doing back flips, and it's not like I'm embarrassed or anything, but when I was in elementary school I had a big complex about it.

The thing is, I was a total klutz, so I hardly ever expected to be the sort of student who excelled at everything, but I was always afraid of being made fun of when I was the only one who couldn't do something.

Back when I debuted, I just wanted to draw manga. Doing anything else felt like a waste of time. I especially hate doing my taxes or filling out forms or paying bills, so I always thought, "I'm a mangaka. Why does society expect me to do all this stupid shit? Please, just let me draw manga."

Well, I was stupid, I guess. Thankfully my parents trained me well, so I was at least able to cook and clean for myself and I wasn't a total slob (I think, maybe). But now that I reflect on it, cleaning, doing the laundry, going to the bank and dealing with people and all those unavoidable things are necessary to make it through all the ups and downs in this line of work.

To put it simply, when I get writer's block, I become deeply depressed and feel really stupid, but washing dishes still gets them clean. It's a lifesaver to be able to think, "I may not have gotten any work done, but at least I washed the dishes." I just have to start with what I can do, and come back to the hard stuff later.

My oldest daughter just started elementary school this year and she can't do a back flip or jump rope or swim yet. "Poor you, there are so many things you've still got to learn," I tell myself, but she can just take her time and do it at her own pace.

Whenever I watch a fight, I think, "Wow, they've got to learn all these different punches and kicks and wrestling techniques." But no one can do it all right off the bat. And if they could, that would be boring. Maybe I just like watching someone try really hard to make up for their shortcomings? Of course with mixed martial arts they really do have to be able to do everything; that's their goal. But as a spectator, I want to see them be creative, to do whatever they can when anything goes.

Hiroki Endo, 8/21/2009

cover design
Tadashi HISAMOCHI + Seiko TSUCHIHASHI (hive&co.,ltd.)

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ALL ROUNDER MEGURU 2
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Chapter 9 | Future Plans

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
MMPH
...
むっくり

TIE
huff
huff
I know it's just the amateur circuit...
...but it really sucks to lose two matches in a row.
I don't know how to get stronger ...
...but for the time being, I decided to start running every morning.

!
...THIS WAS HERE!
I HAD NO IDEA...
WHOA!
41.
42.
43.
HOP
HOP

WHEW ...
ONLY EIGHT IN A ROW.
PATHETIC ...
HNNGH!
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
munch
munch
munch

SURE.
SECONDS, PLEASE. ♡
MUNCH MUNCH
...
ぱくぱくぱく
SEE YOU LATER.
CLUNK
D'YOU THINK HE'LL GET FAT...?
YOU'RE GOIN' T'BE LATE FOR CLASS, TAMAKI.
...
SIIIP

SIGN: TEACHER'S LOUNGE

YOUR GRADES HAVE FALLEN LATELY.
YEAH ...
IS THERE A REASON YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON YOUR STUDIES?
YOU'LL BE IN 12TH GRADE THIS SPRING.
YOU NEED TO DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE OR LOOK FOR WORK.
キ――ン…
...

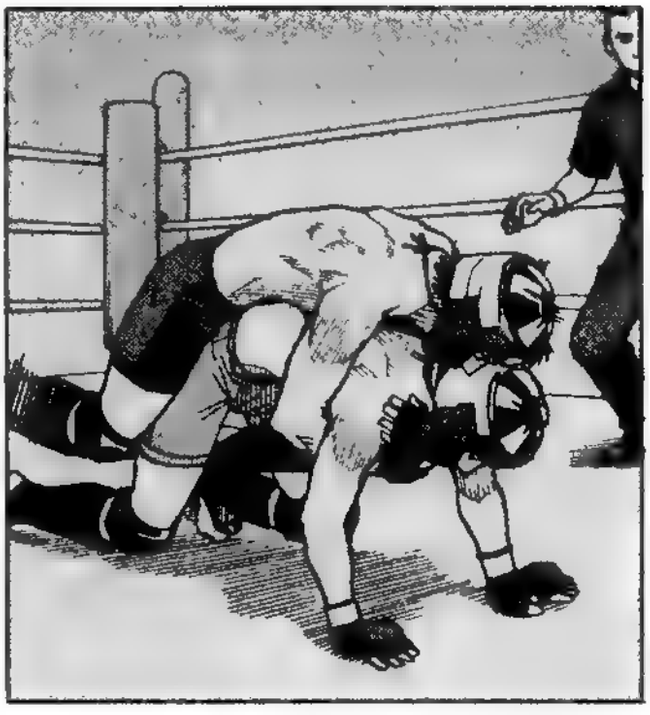
*TOKYO NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS AND MUSIC.

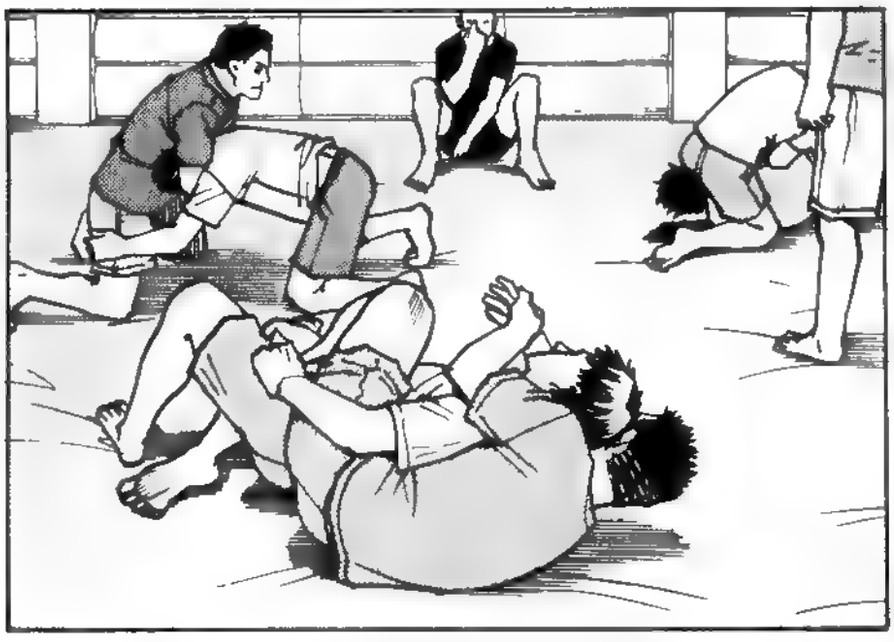
I NEED TO BULK UP...
And it's got a lot of protein.
WOW.
I JUST WANT TO WIN ONE MATCH, YOU KNOW?
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?
CANNED TUNA.
SO WHETHER YOU GET A JOB OR GO TO COLLEGE...
...YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE YOU'RE STILL ABLE TO KEEP PRACTICING.
YOU REALLY LIKE...
... MARTIAL ARTS, DON'T YOU?

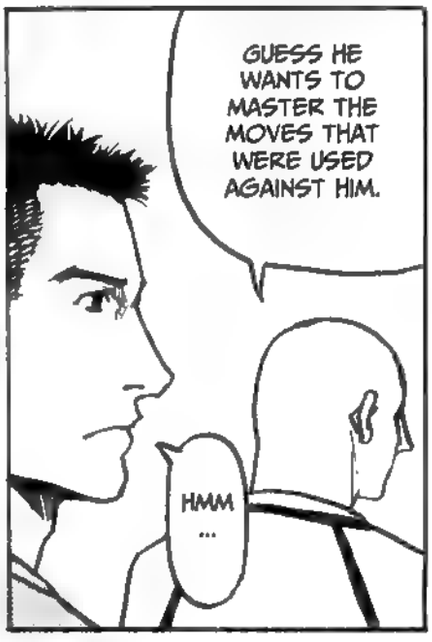
LIKE YOU'RE EMBRACING IT...
OK.
EXTEND YOUR OPPO-NENT'S ELBOW.
3 F
...
NOW LET'S DO IT AGAIN FROM THE GUARD POSITION...
OK.
ぱっ
スチャッ
YEAH.
LIKE THAT.

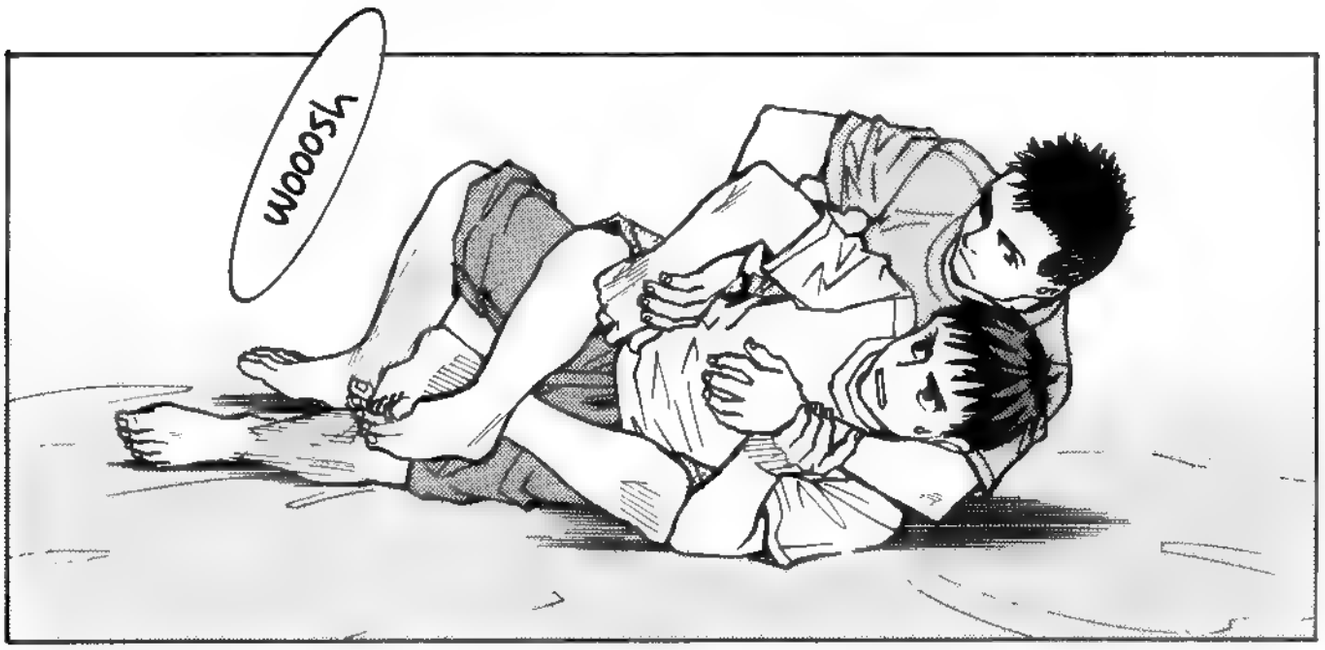
HE LOST WHEN THE OTHER GUY PULLED AN ARM DRAG TO BACK MOUNT TO RNC FROM AN OPEN GUARD.
YEAH, WELL, REMEMBER HIS FIRST FIGHT?
MEGURU'S BEEN WORKING ON ARM DRAGS A LOT LATELY...

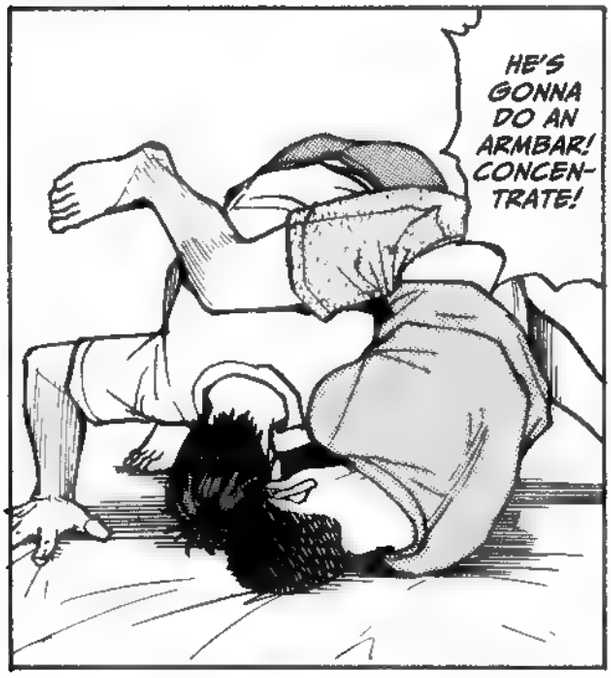
WOOSH

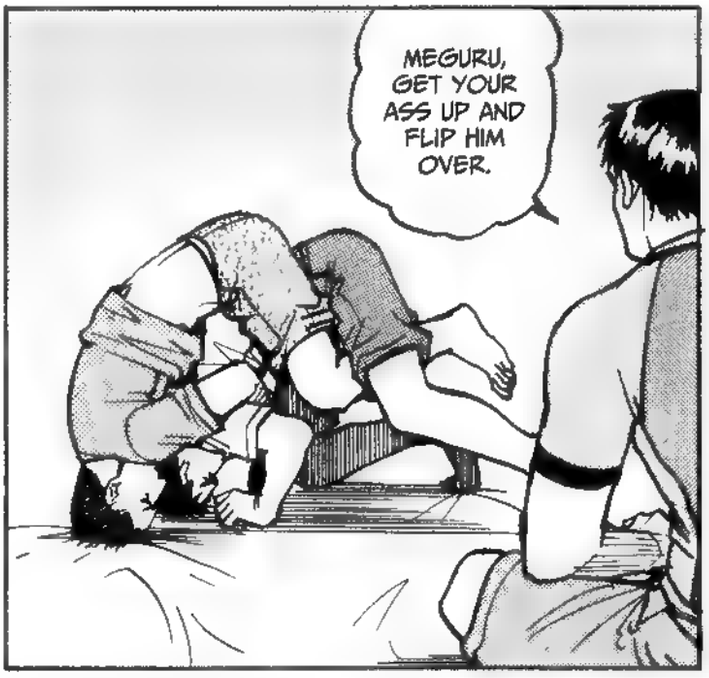


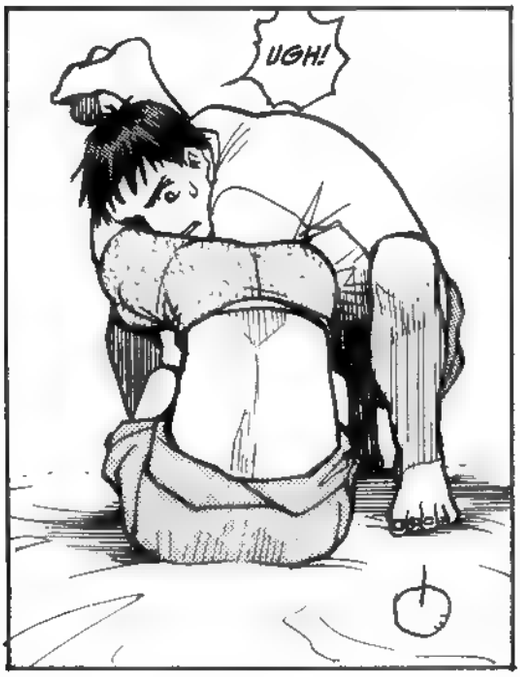



GUESS HE WANTS TO MASTER THE MOVES THAT WERE USED AGAINST HIM.
HMM ...


WOOOSH

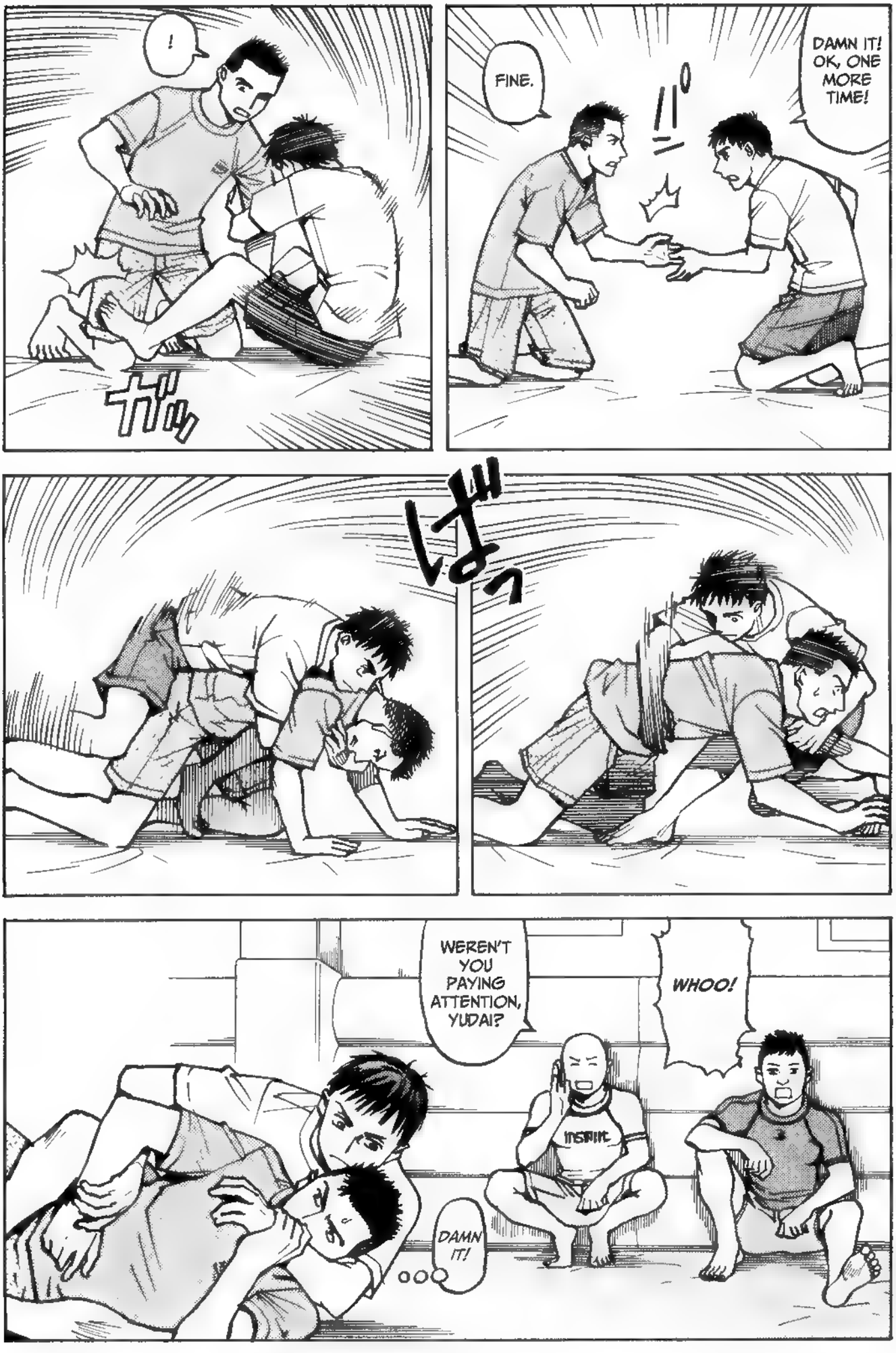

HE'S GONNA DO AN ARMBAR! CONCEN-TRATE!


MEGURU, GET YOUR ASS UP AND FLIP HIM OVER.


UGH!

ヒュ
ガ

WAH!
KNOWING IT'S COMING DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER TO AVOID...
I TOLD YOU HE WAS GONNA DO THAT.
THAT'S WHY IT'S MY SPECIALTY.

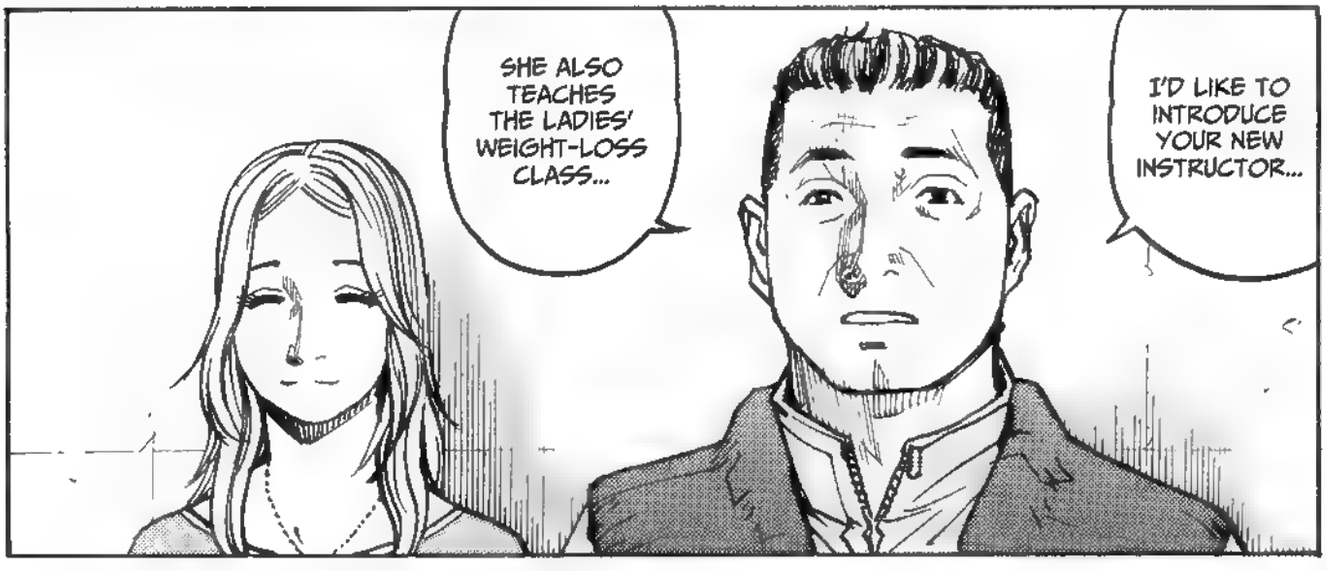

!
ガッ
FINE.
DAMN IT! OK, ONE MORE TIME!
バッ
WEREN'T YOU PAYING ATTENTION, YUDAI?
WHOO!
DAMN IT!
...

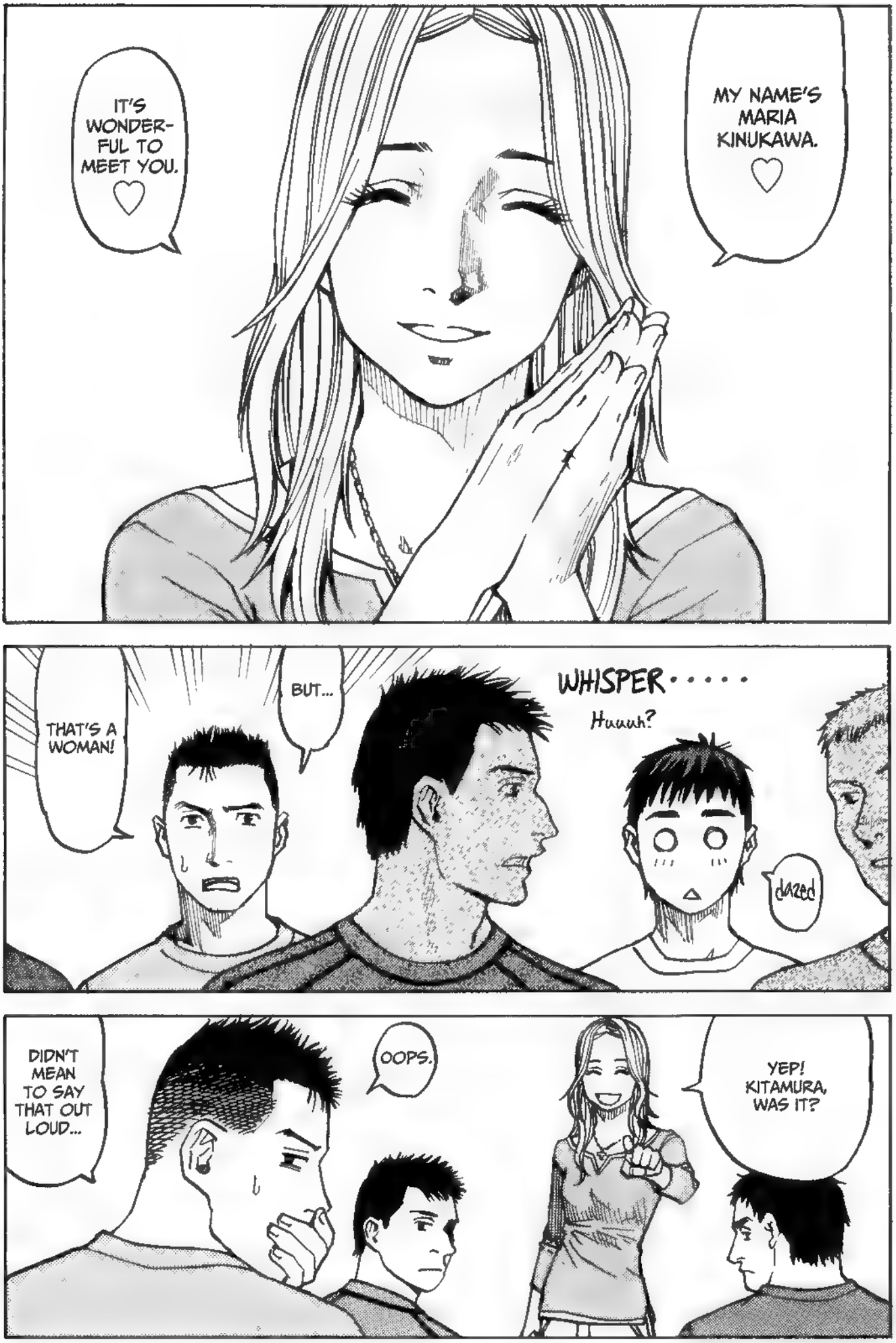
GRAB
DAMN HIM...
COME ON, YUDAI, THAT'S THE EXACT SAME THING YOU DID BEFORE.
I DID IT!
SHIT!
OH!

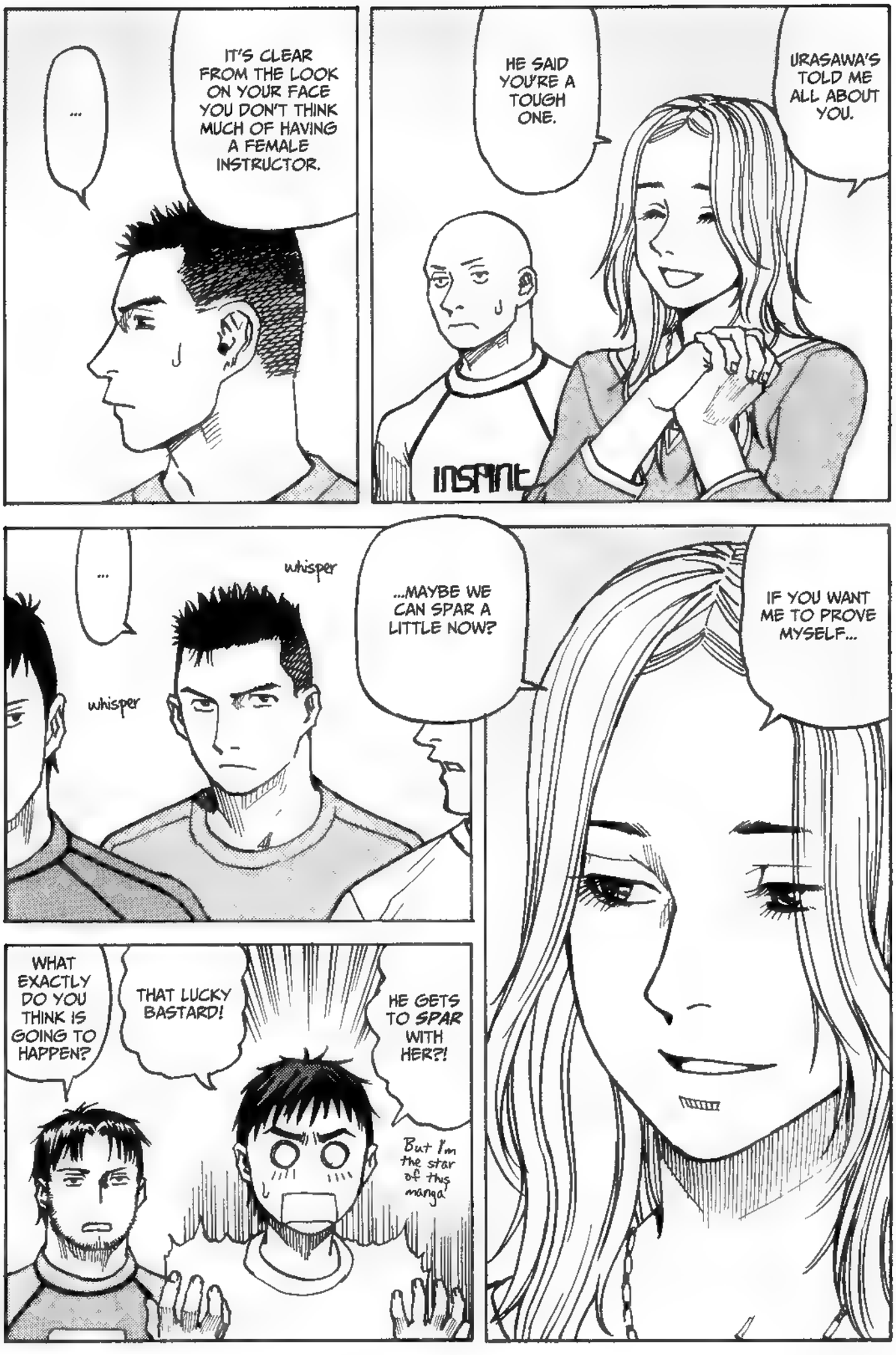
CRAP!
AH!
TWIST
OK, TIME'S UP.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
YUDAI, YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF GETTING OUT OF A HOLD LIKE THAT.
...
DAMN IT, YOU GOT AWAY FROM ME.
GET UP.
MAYBE IN TEN YEARS YOU COULD BEAT ME.

AHEM, FURUYA AND I WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN A PRO SHOOTO CONTEST IN MAY.
I HOPE YOU'LL ALL COME TO CHEER US ON,
BUT UNTIL THEN WE'RE GOING TO BE BUSY TRAINING...

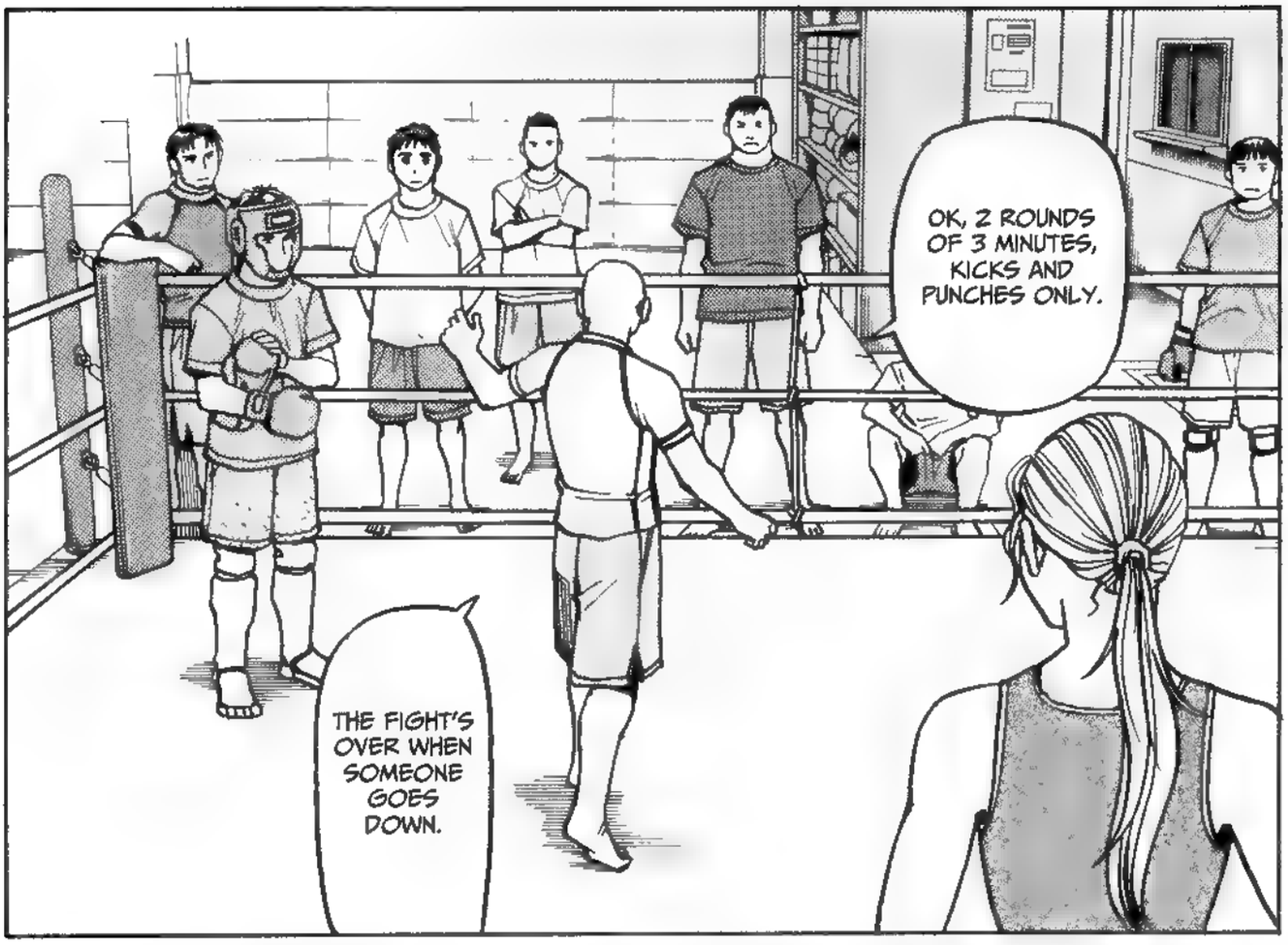
SO WE'RE GOING HAVE TO STEP DOWN AS INSTRUCTORS FOR A WHILE.
IN OUR STEAD-- OH, BOSS.
LOOKS LIKE I'M JUST IN TIME.


I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOUR NEW INSTRUCTOR...
SHE ALSO TEACHES THE LADIES' WEIGHT-LOSS CLASS...

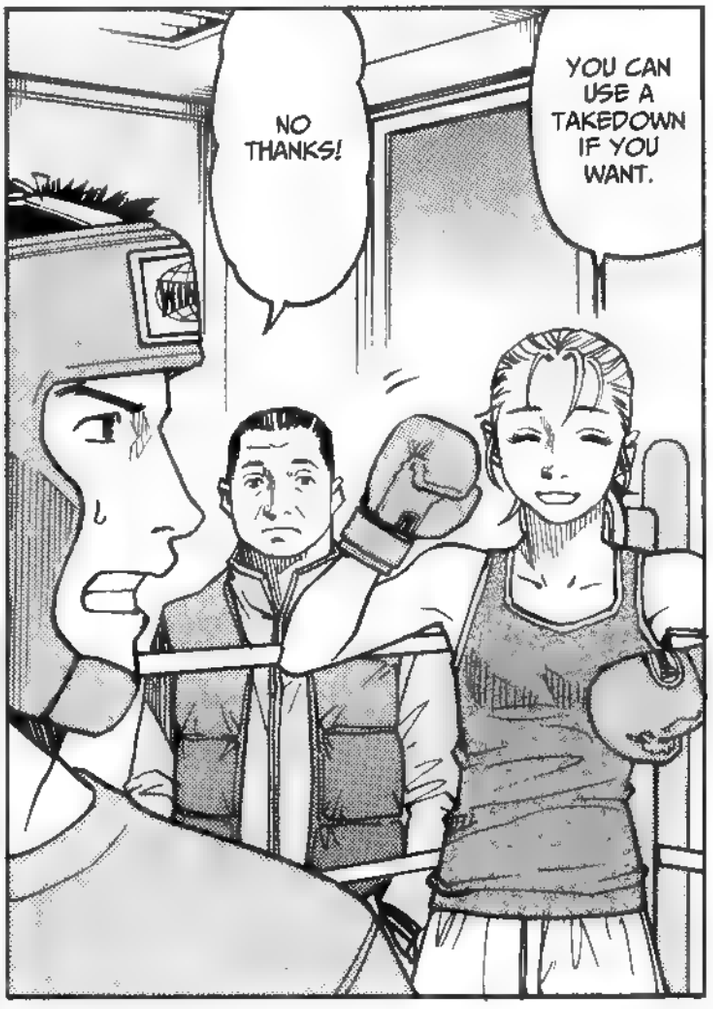

IT'S WONDER-FUL TO MEET YOU.
MY NAME'S MARIA KINUKAWA.
THAT'S A WOMAN!
BUT...
WHISPER・・・・・
Huuuh?
dazed
DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT OUT LOUD...
OOPS.
YEP! KITAMURA, WAS IT?


...
IT'S CLEAR FROM THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE YOU DON'T THINK MUCH OF HAVING A FEMALE INSTRUCTOR.
HE SAID YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE.
URASAWA'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.
...
whisper
whisper
...MAYBE WE CAN SPAR A LITTLE NOW?
IF YOU WANT ME TO PROVE MYSELF...
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN?
THAT LUCKY BASTARD!
HE GETS TO SPAR WITH HER?!
But I'm the star of this manga!

Chapter 10 | The "Blows" in "Mastery of Blows and Throws" (Part 1)

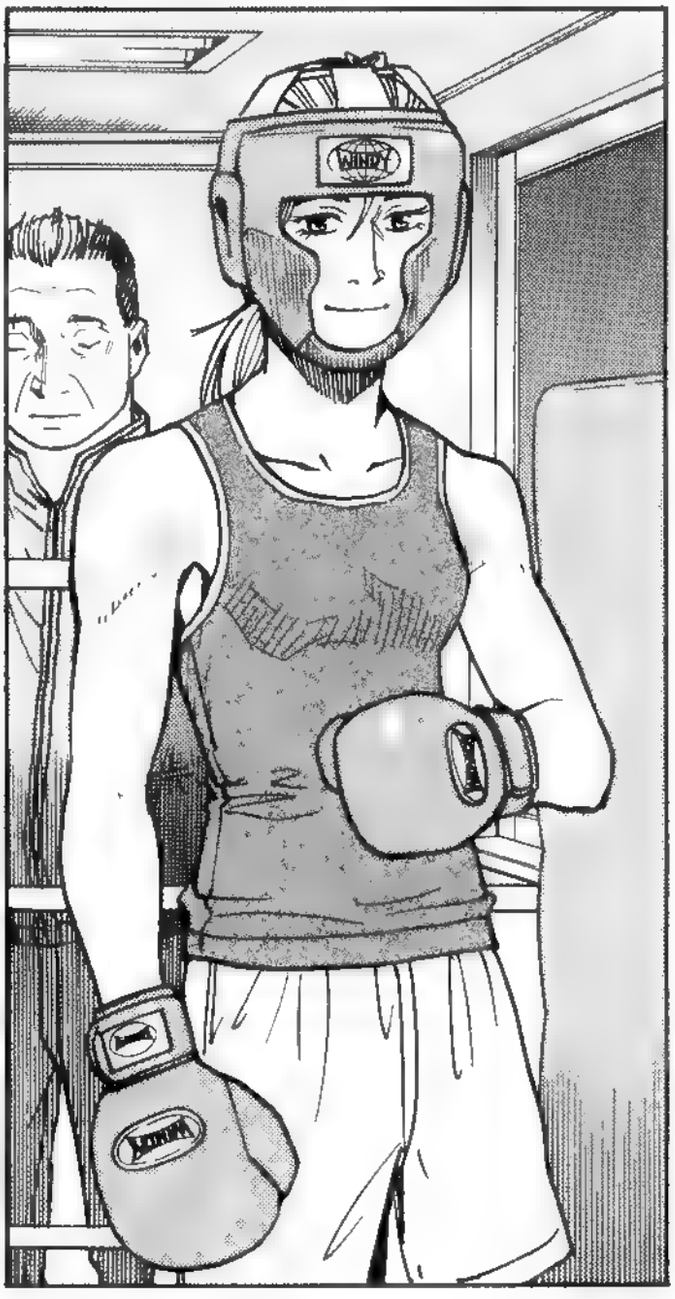

OK, 2 ROUNDS OF 3 MINUTES, KICKS AND PUNCHES ONLY.
THE FIGHT'S OVER WHEN SOMEONE GOES DOWN.

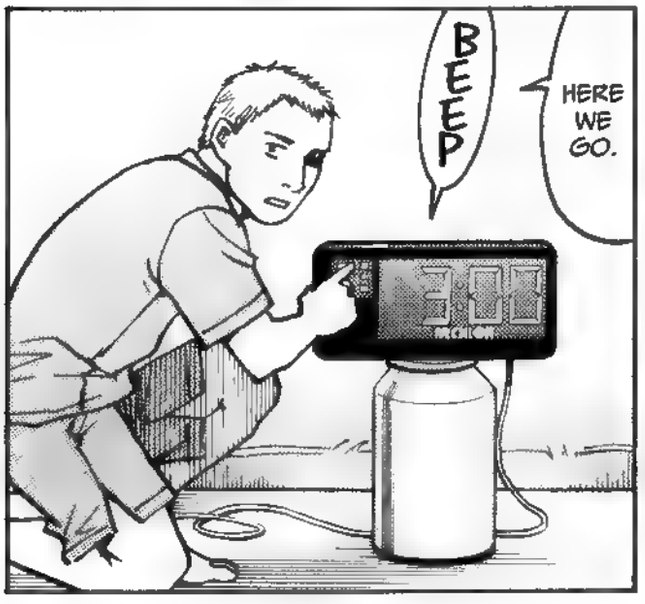
YOU COULDN'T HOLD BACK IF YOU TRIED.
YOU SURE I SHOULDN'T HOLD BACK?

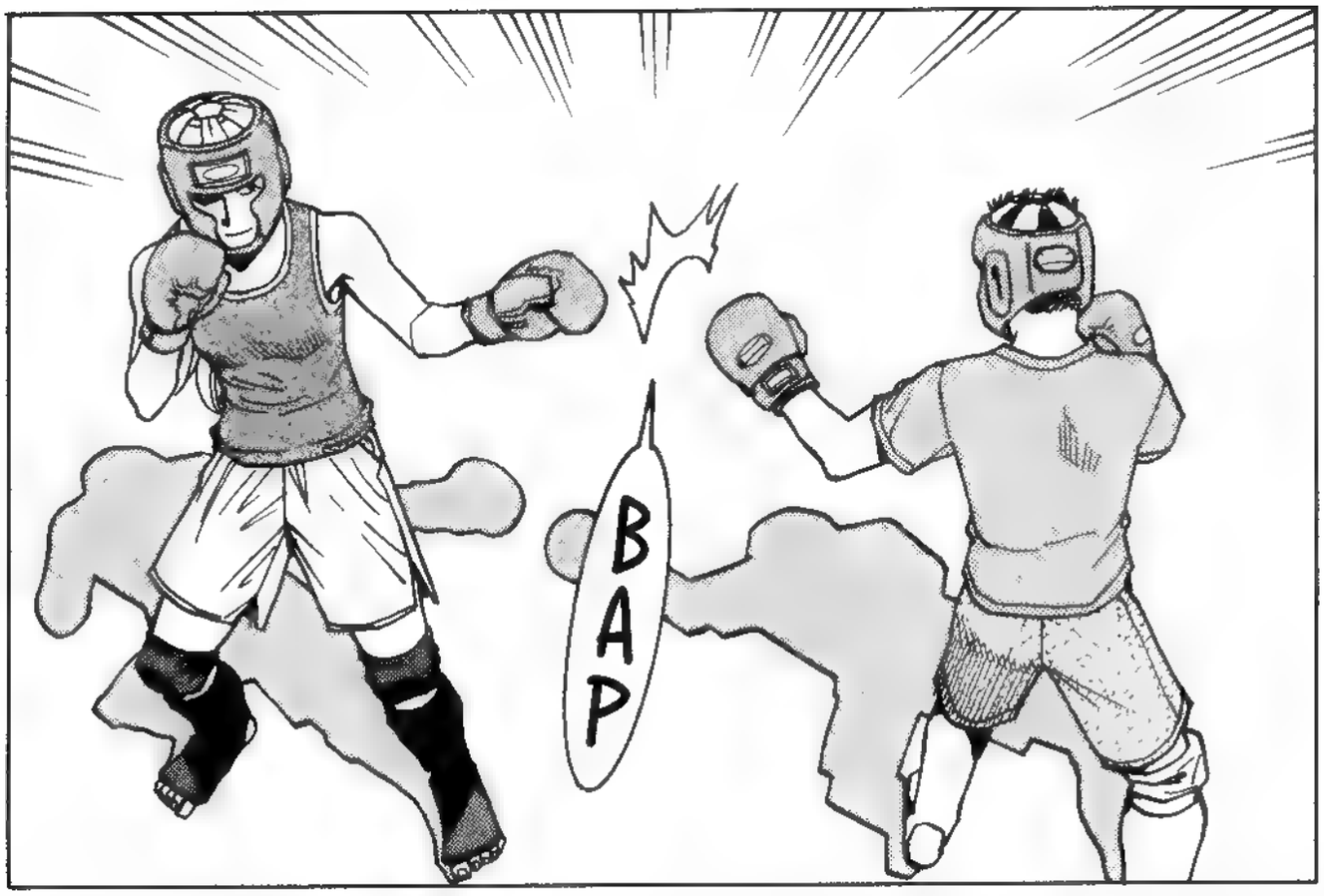

NO THANKS!
YOU CAN USE A TAKEDOWN IF YOU WANT.

YOU GONNA BEAT UP A GIRL?
WHAT A JERK!
SHUT UP, MAN!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED IT!

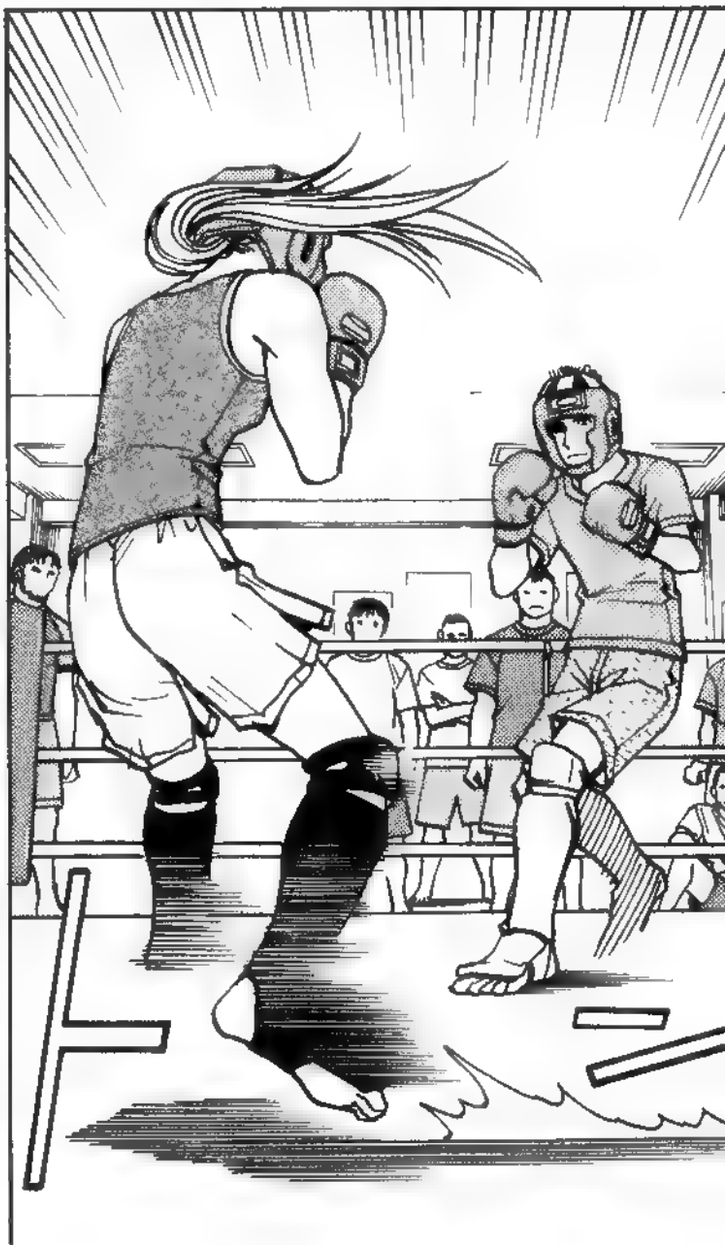
HER SHOULDERS ARE REALLY BUFF FOR A GIRL, THOUGH.
SHE'S AS FIT AS YUDAI...
AND SHE'S TALL, TOO. 168 CM.

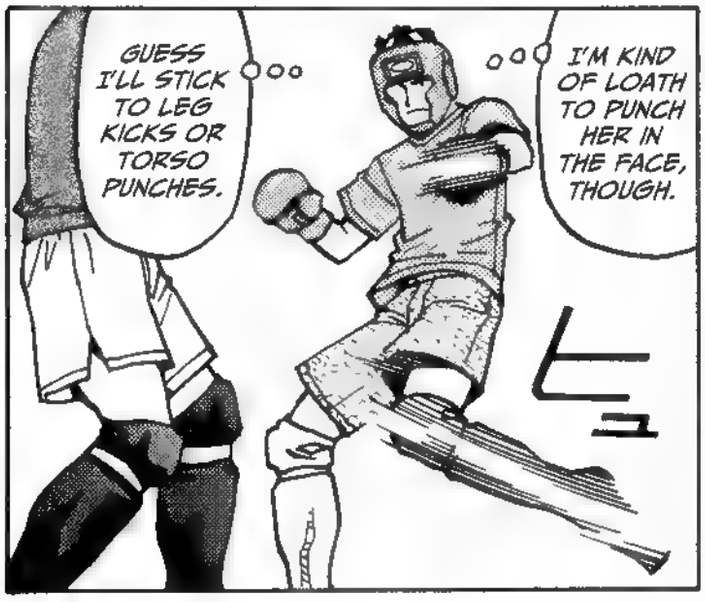

WINDY

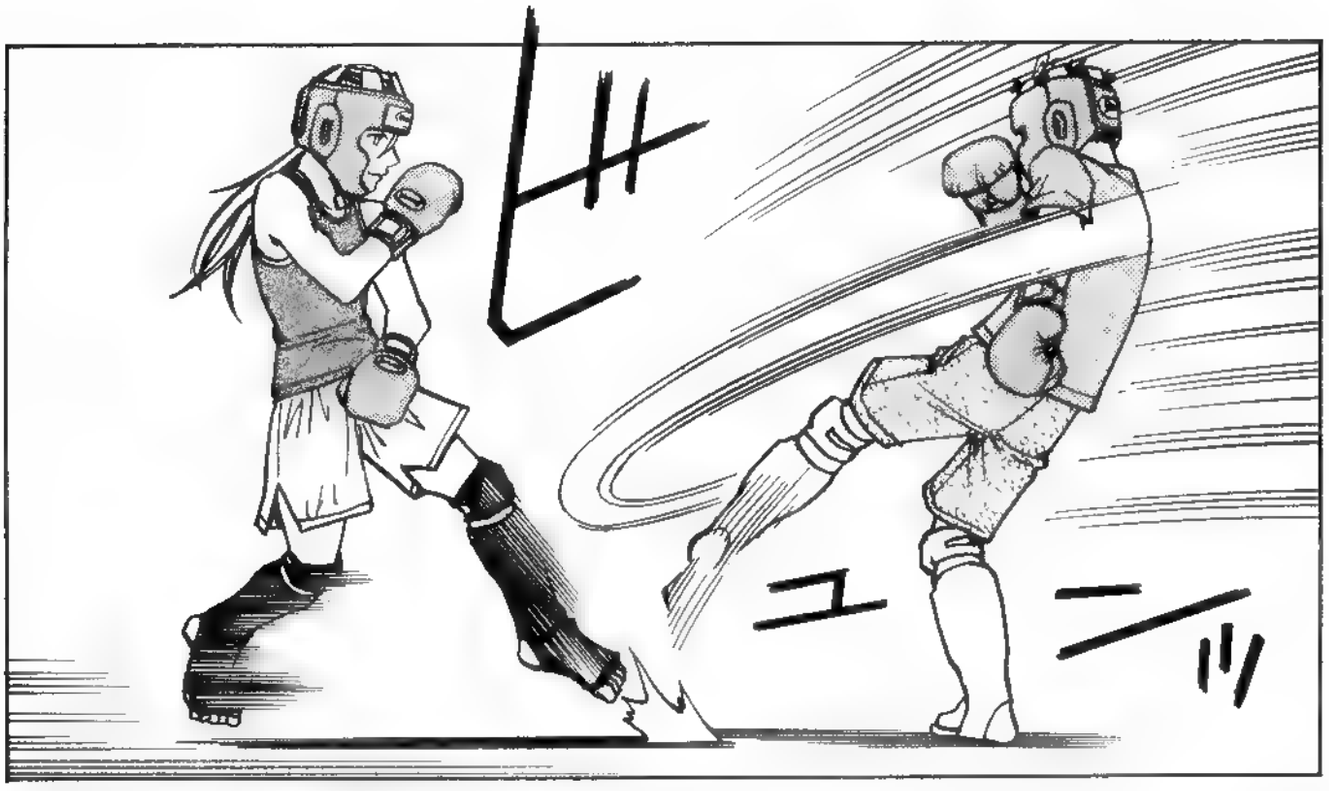

HERE WE GO.
BEEP


BAP

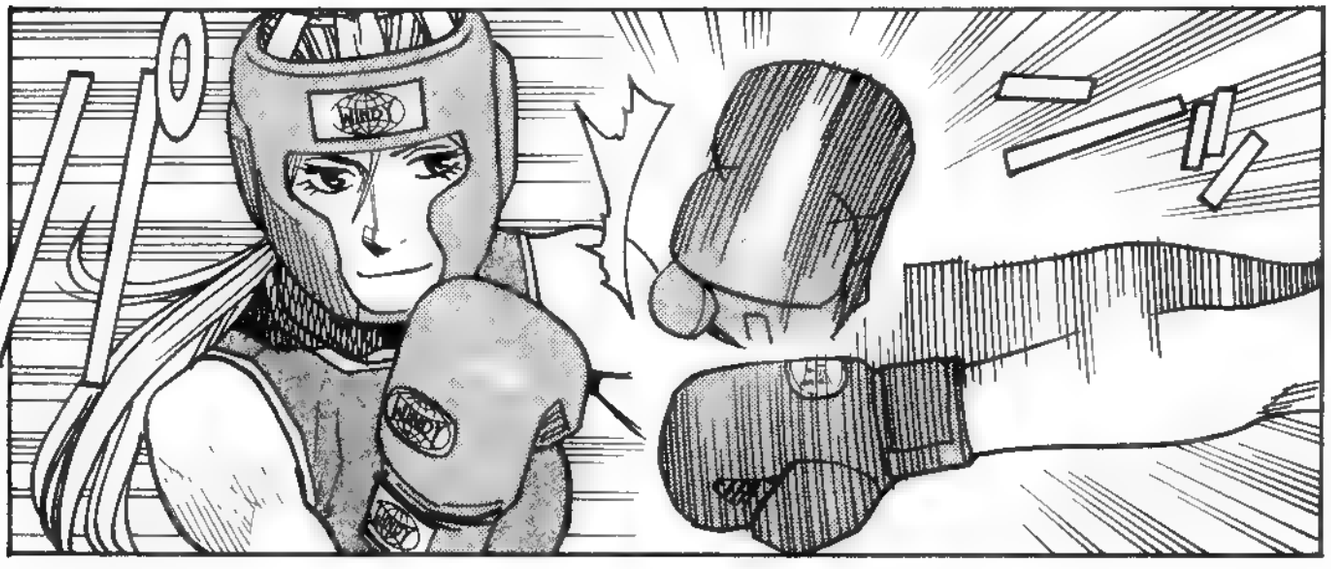
I'M MORE POWER-FUL.
WHO CARES IF SHE TEACHES LADIES' KICK-BOXING?
WINDY




GUESS I'LL STICK TO LEG KICKS OR TORSO PUNCHES.
I'M KIND OF LOATH TO PUNCH HER IN THE FACE, THOUGH.



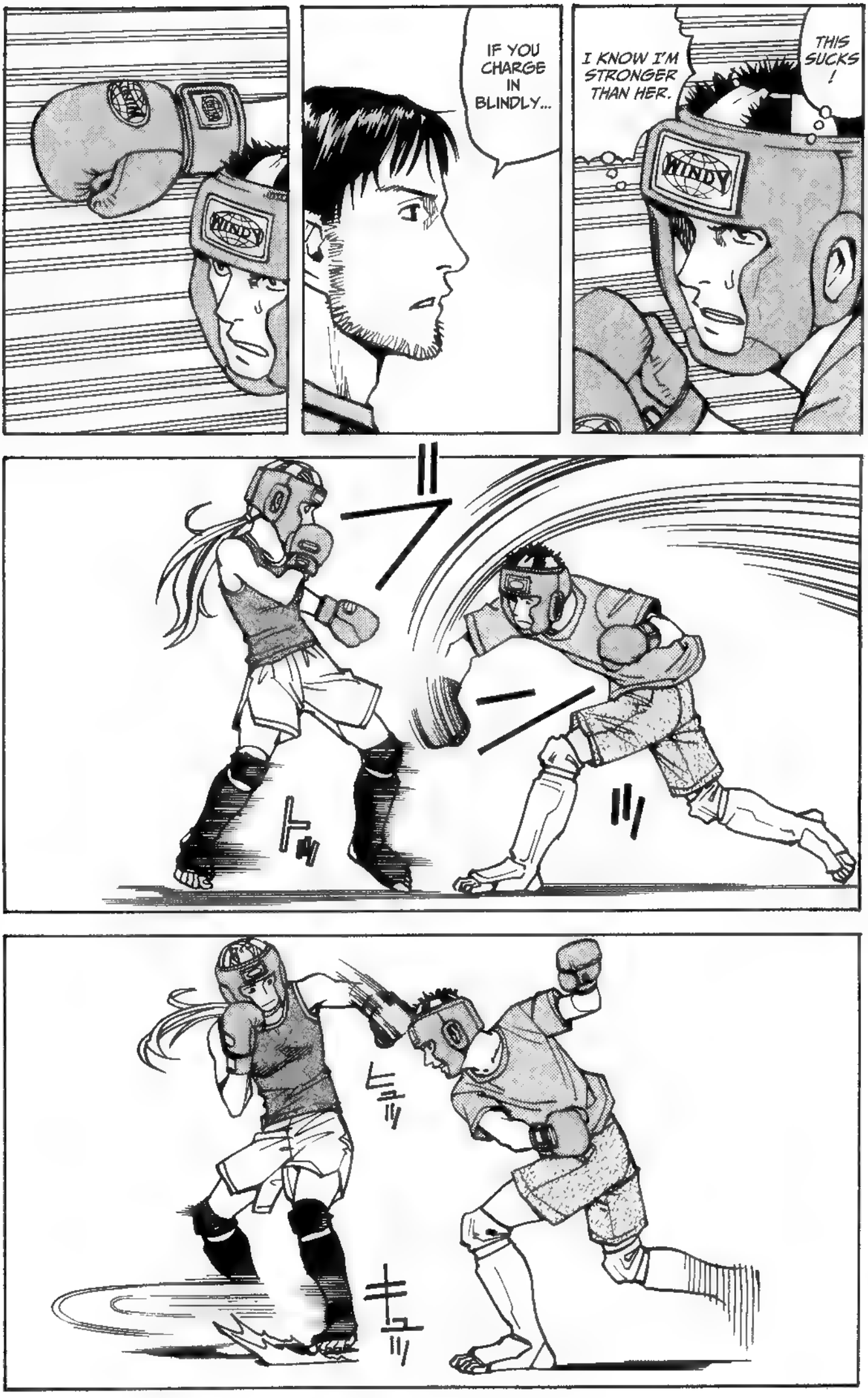
SHE GOT AWAY FROM ME WITH A BACK-STEP!
TCH!

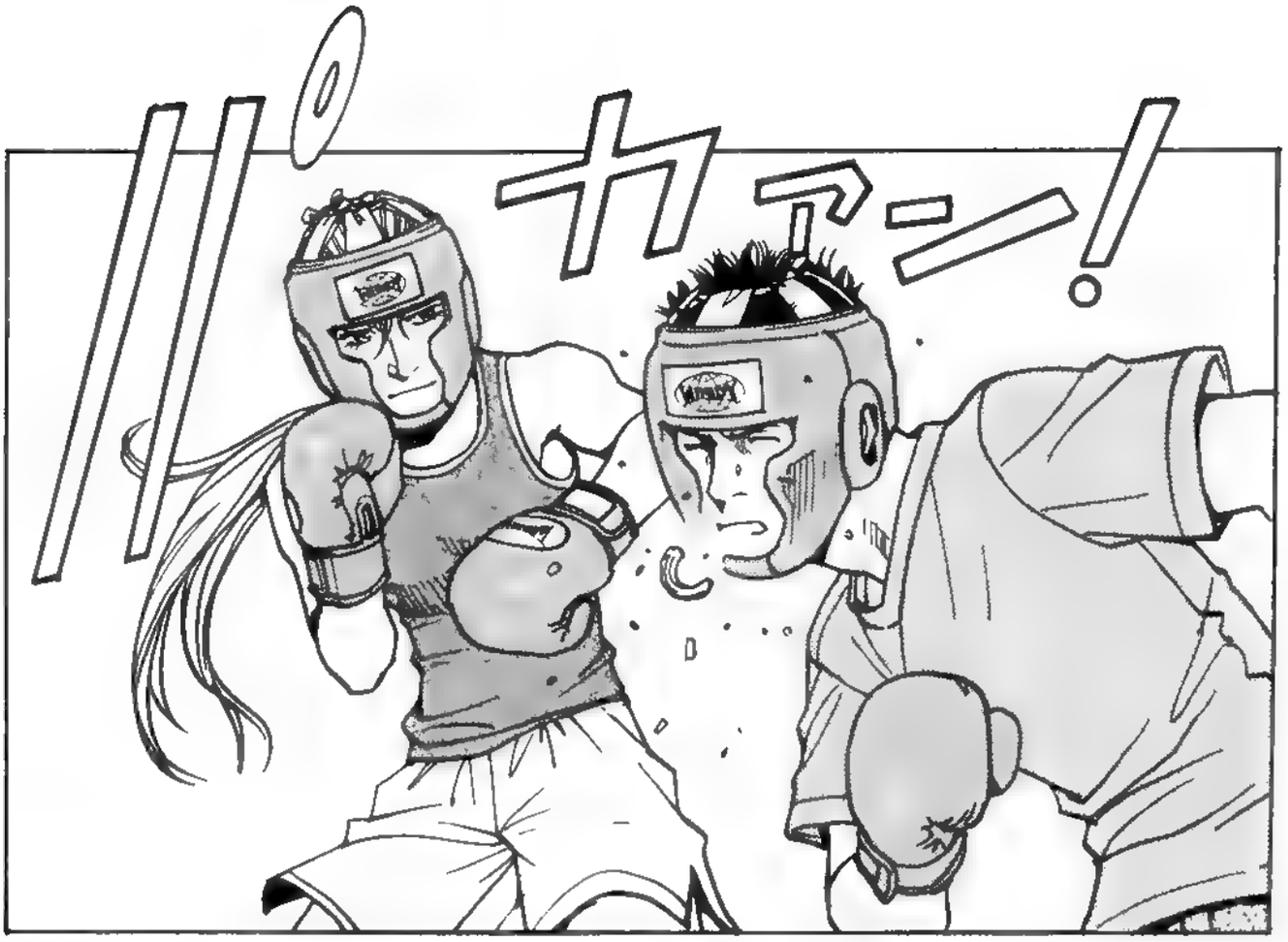


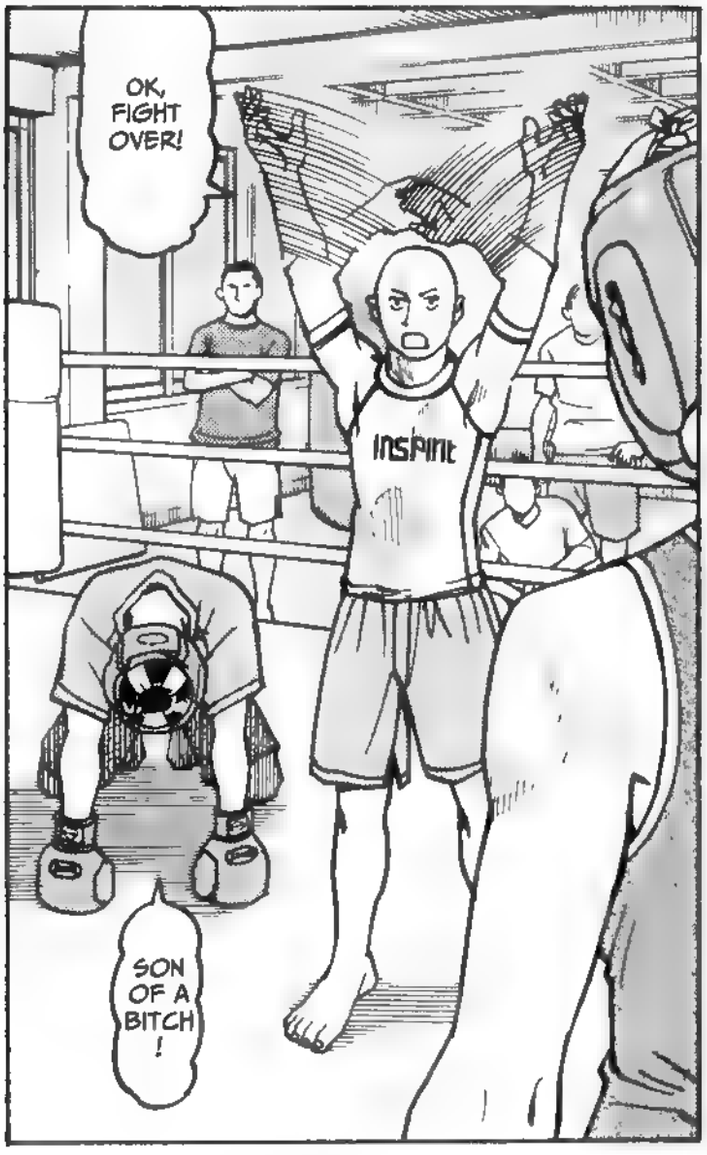
WOW!
...
IN OTHER WORDS, DEFLECTING AN INCOMING BLOW.
THAT'S PARRYING.
WHAT'S THAT...?
...JUST BY BACK-STEPPING AND PARRYING.
SHE'S MANAGED TO EVADE ALL HIS ATTACKS...

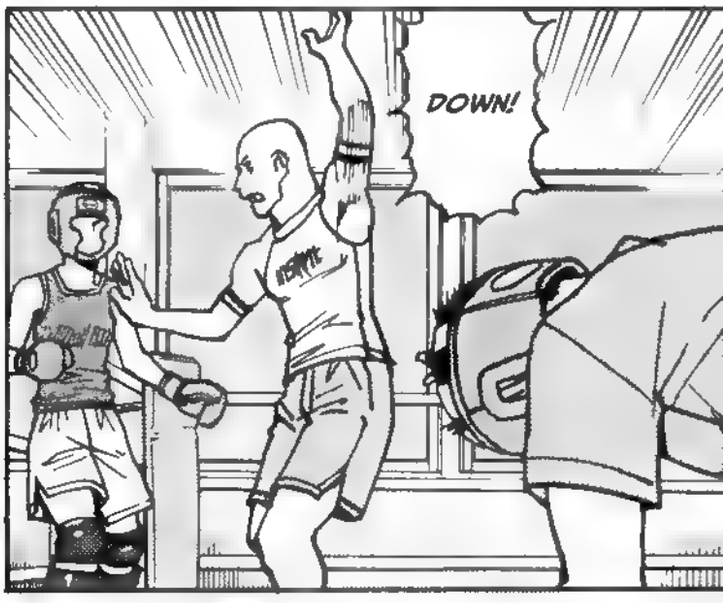
GUESS IT'S MY TURN.
ヒュッ
pant
pant
ALL RIGHT...
UGH!
ア
ア
ア
ー
ッ
ッ
ッ
スキャッ

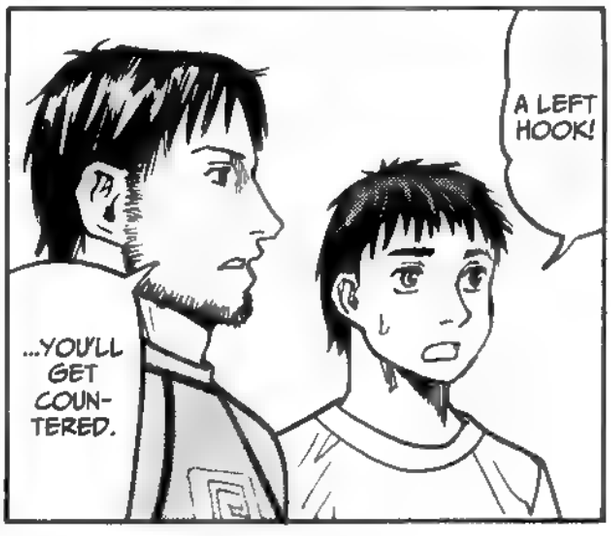
I CAN'T SEEM TO LAND ANY HITS!
DAMN IT!
ビュッ
ス
チャ
ヒ
ヒュッ
...THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE SIDE'S DEFENSE IS BETTER.
EVEN IF THEY'RE EQUAL IN STRENGTH ...
BUT STILL...
THEY'RE BOTH USING JABS AND LEG KICKS...
...BUT ONLY MARIA'S CONNECTING.


WINDY
IF YOU CHARGE IN BLINDLY...
I KNOW I'M STRONGER THAN HER.
THIS SUCKS!
WINDY

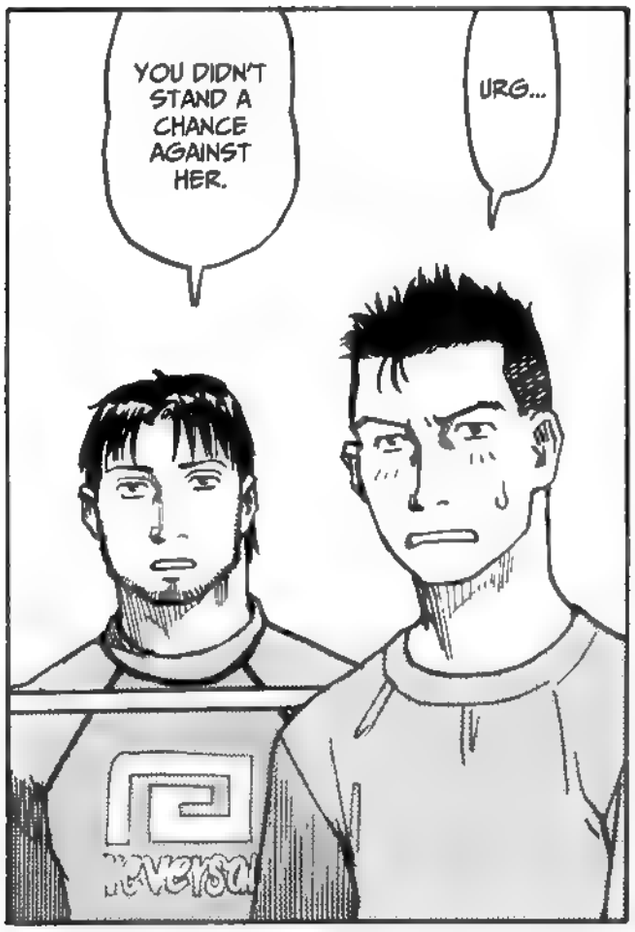

パカァーン!


OK, FIGHT OVER!
SON OF A BITCH!

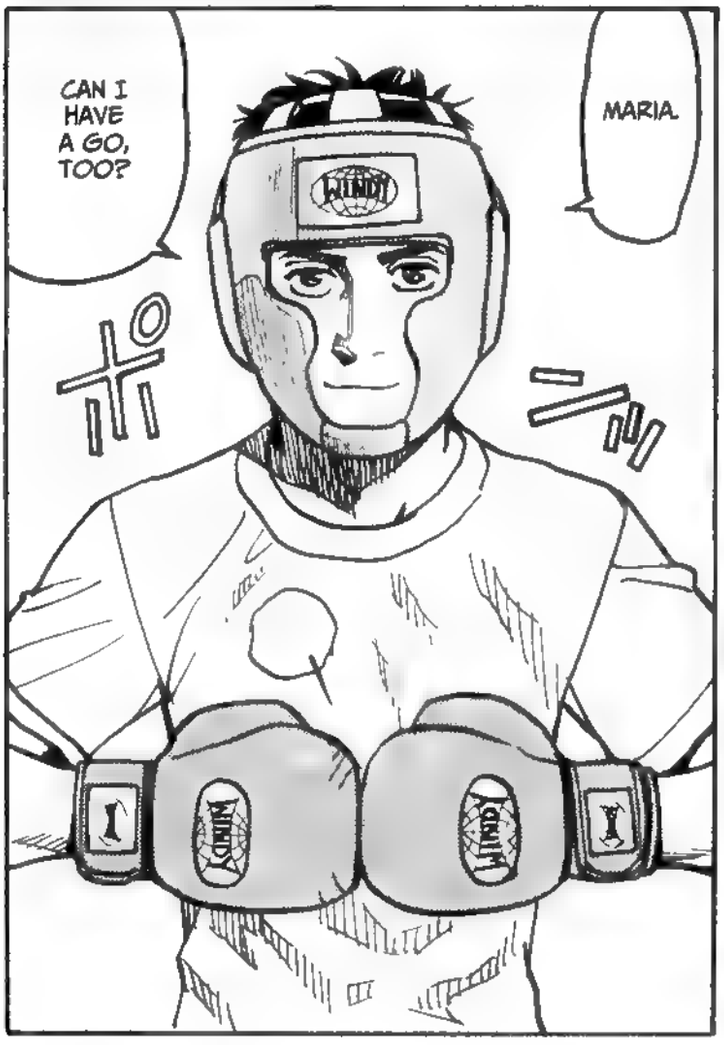

DOWN!

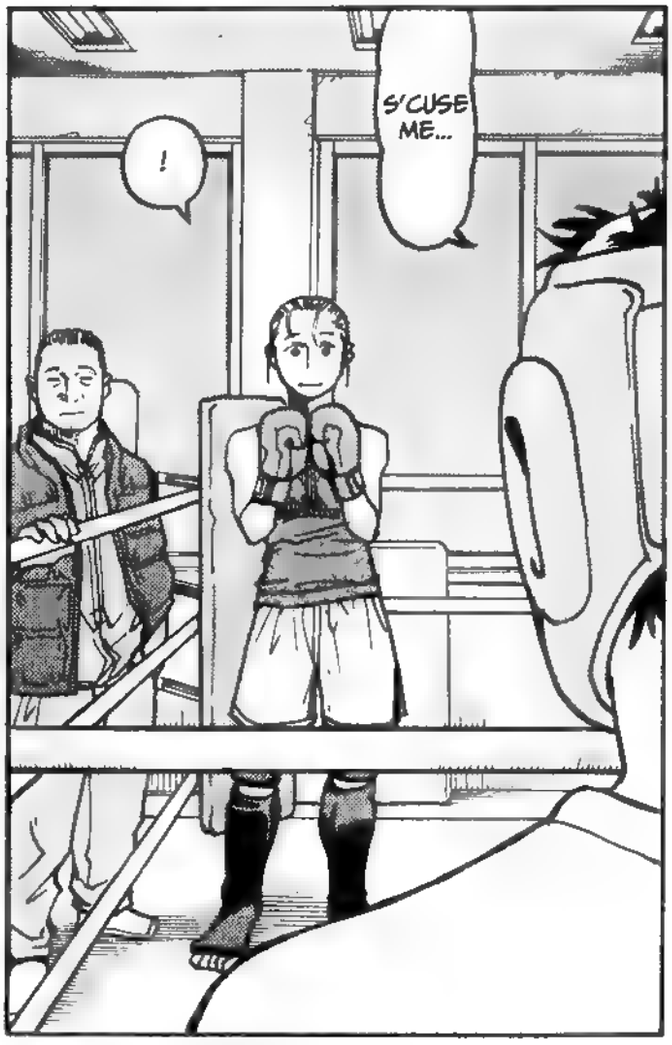

A LEFT HOOK!
...YOU'LL GET COUNTERED.

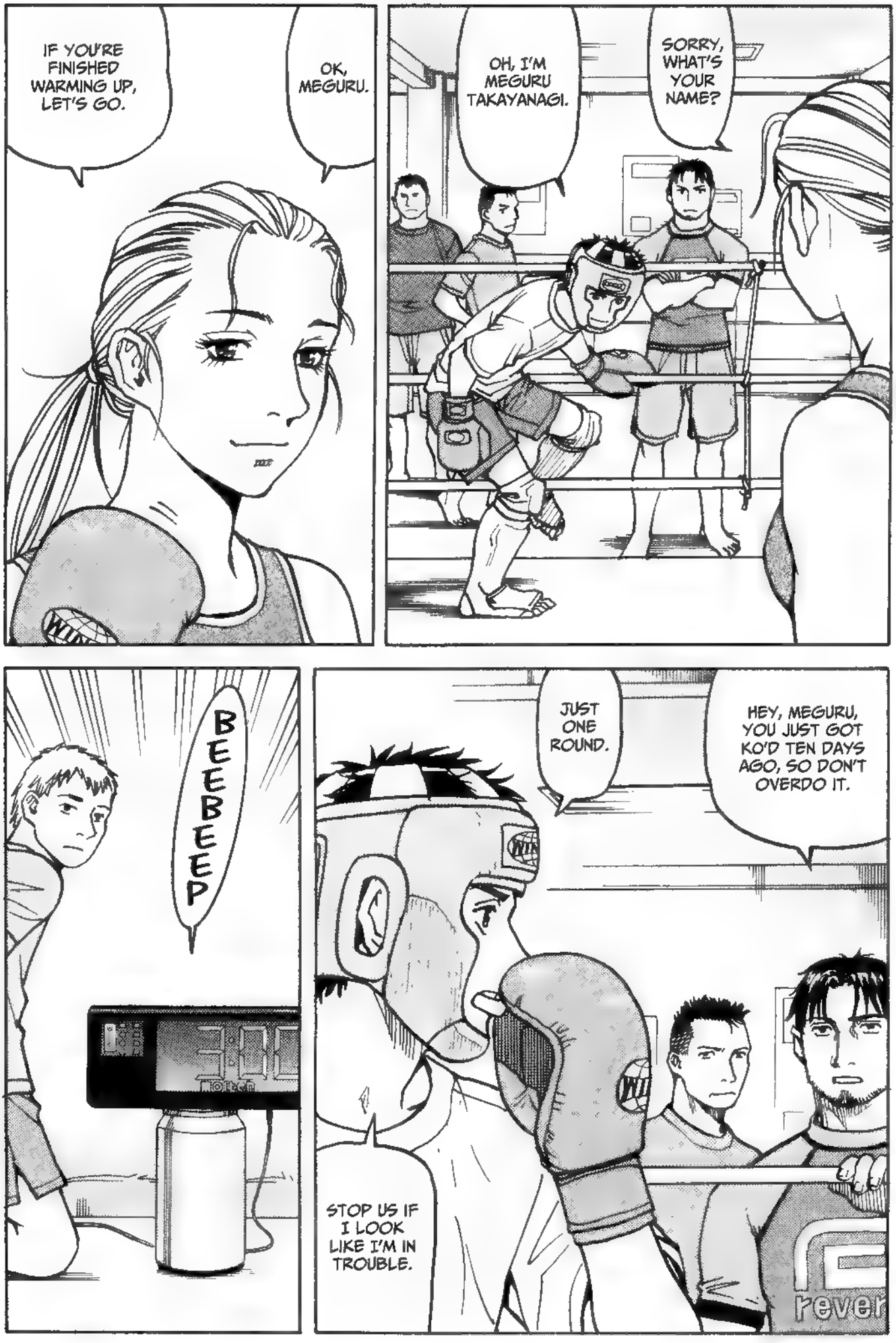
HUH?
HOW COME SHE'S SO GOOD?!
SHE'S A FORMER HOLLAND WOMEN'S KICK-BOXING CHAMP, THAT'S WHY.
WHAT HE SAID.
!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT SOONER ?!
AND SHE'S THE BOSS'S NIECE.
IN OTHER WORDS, SHE'S GIFTED.


YOU DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HER.
URG...

YOU WON'T OBJECT TO ME COACHING YOU ANYMORE, WILL YOU?
GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, SWEETIE?
にぱ

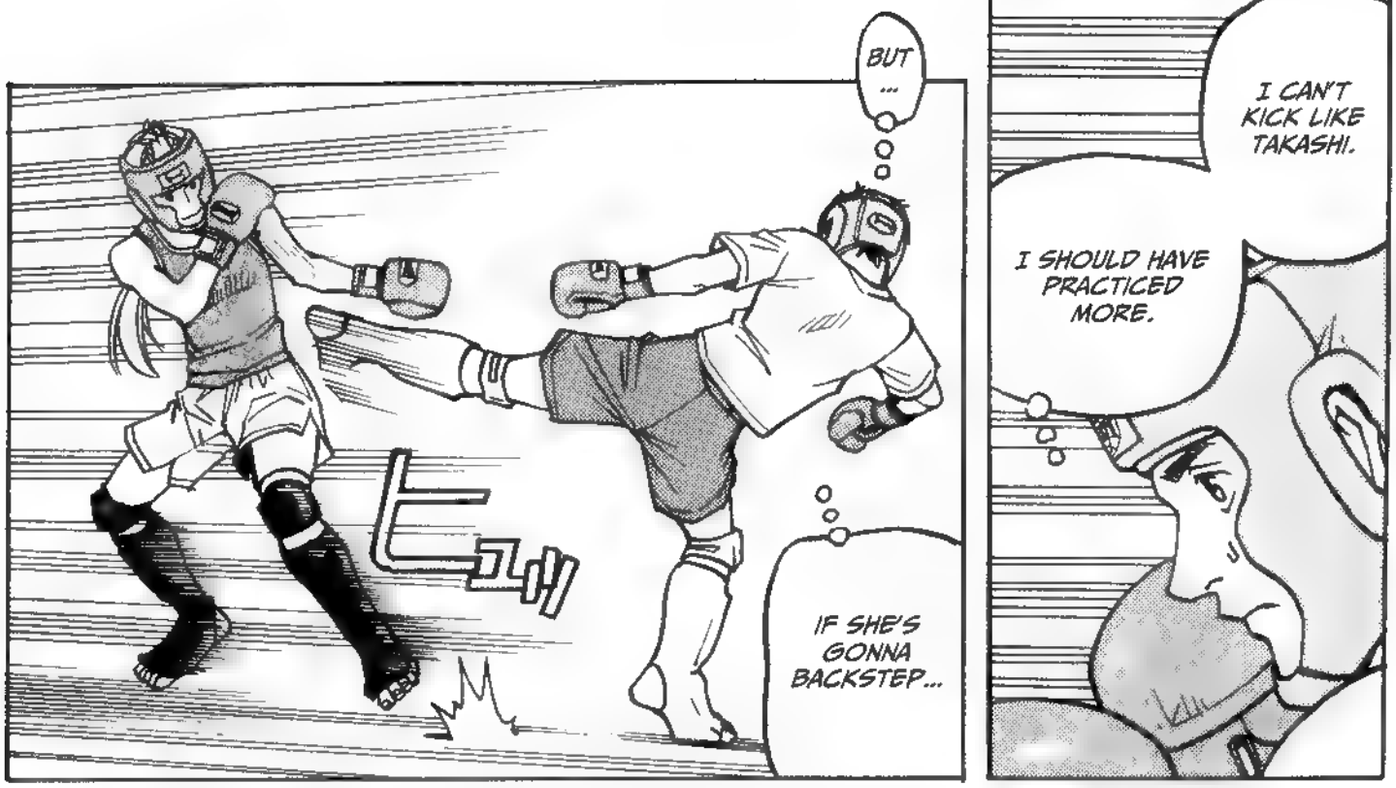

CAN I HAVE A GO, TOO?
MARIA

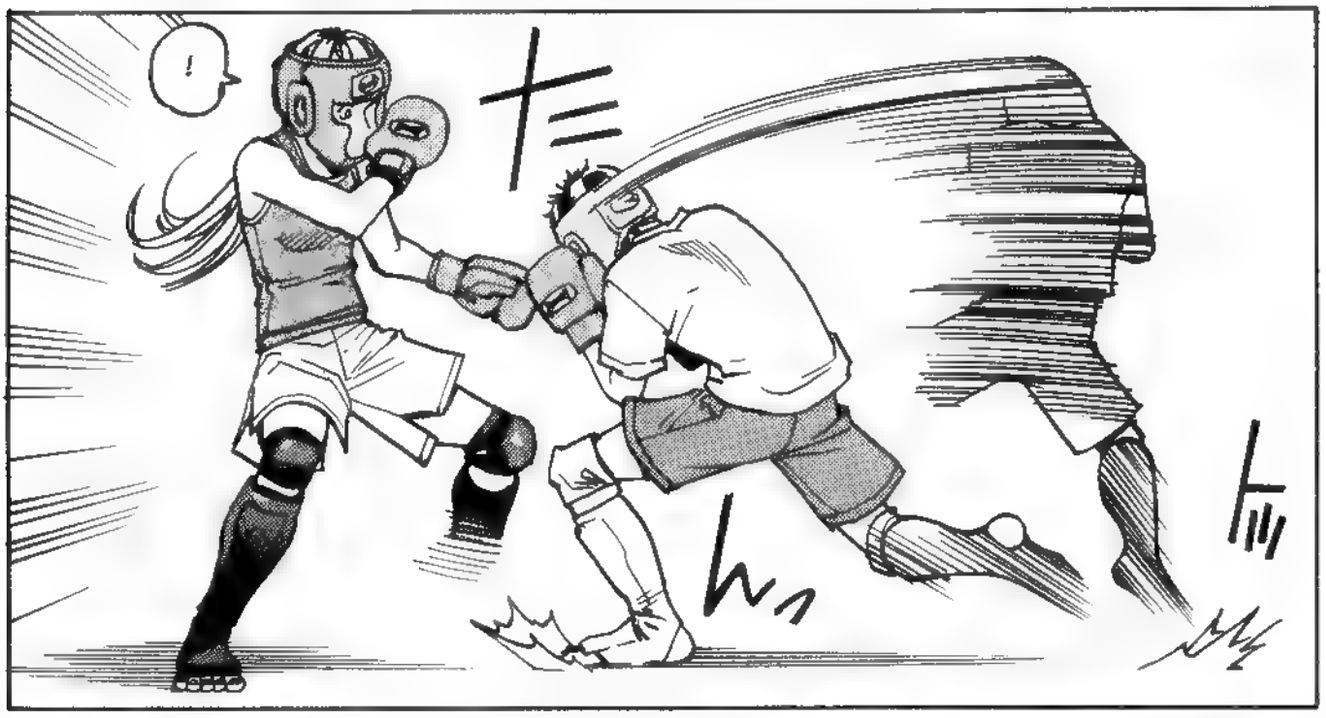

S'CUSE ME...
!


IF YOU'RE FINISHED WARMING UP, LET'S GO.
OK, MEGURU.
OH, I'M MEGURU TAKAYANAGI.
SORRY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
BEEBEEP
JUST ONE ROUND.
HEY, MEGURU, YOU JUST GOT KO'D TEN DAYS AGO, SO DON'T OVERDO IT.
STOP US IF I LOOK LIKE I'M IN TROUBLE.

BAP
THANK YOU.
ヒュ
ゴッ
キュッ
...BUT HE'S GOT NICE FORM ON THAT LEFT MIDDLE KICK.
WINDY
HE'S NOT FAST...

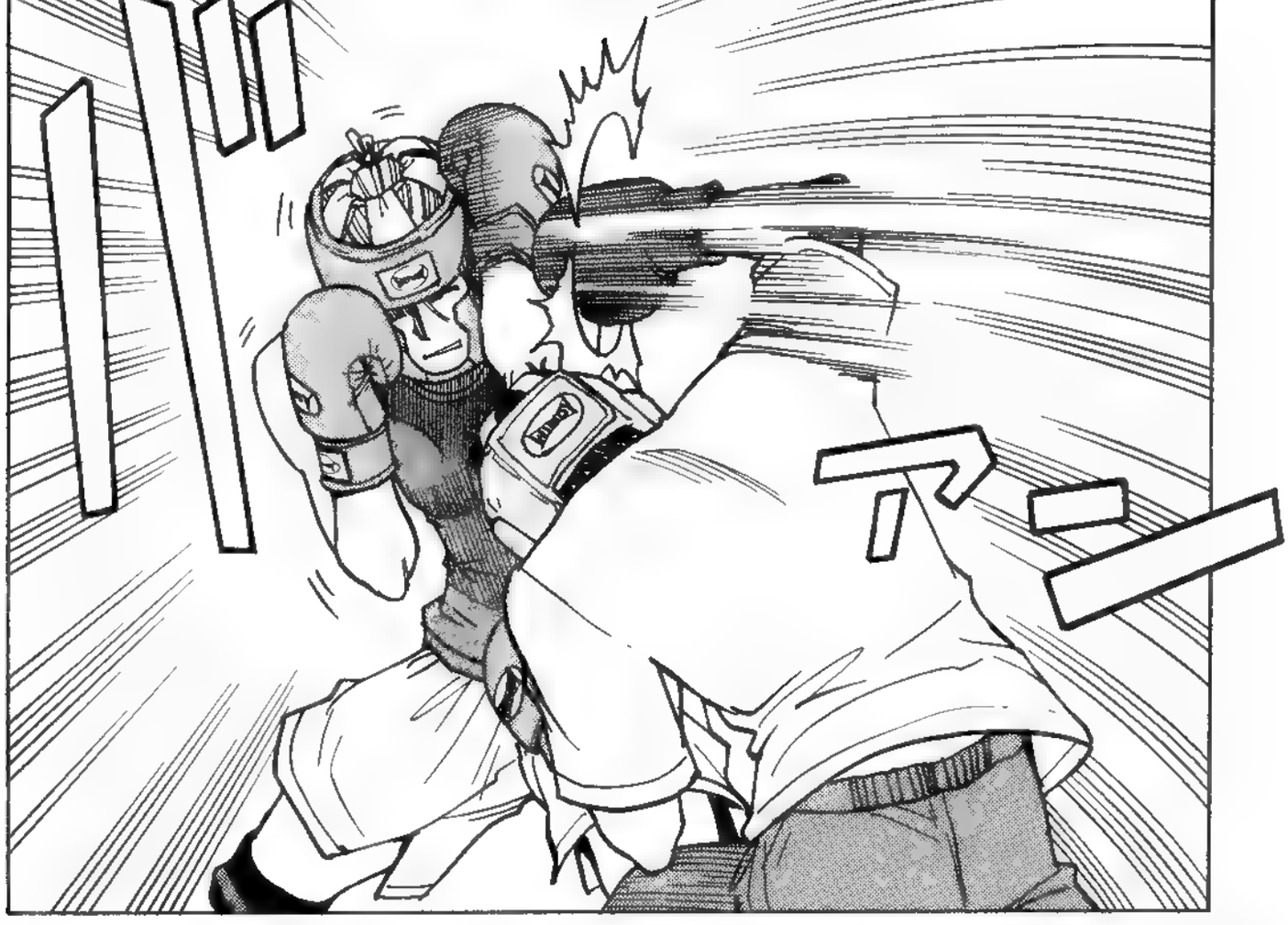
WHOA!
THAT WON'T WORK ON ME, THOUGH.
SO HE'S STUDIED KARATE...
A SIDE KICK!
OHO!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM USE KARATE MOVES BEFORE...

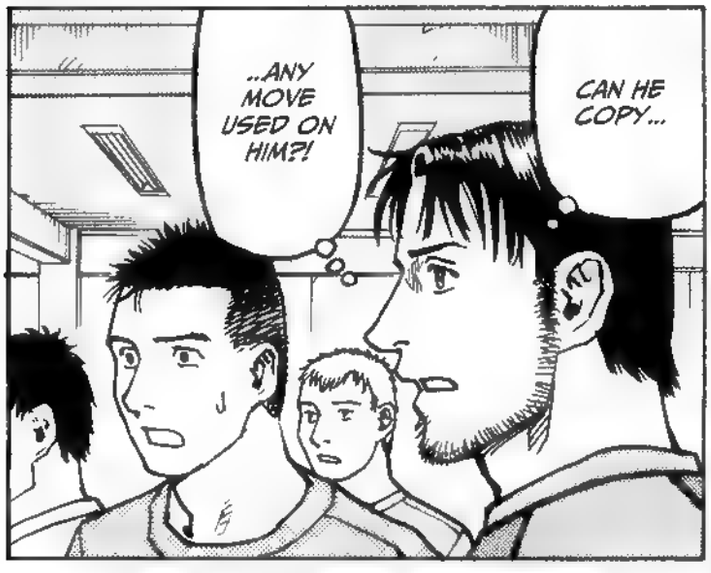

BUT ...
IF SHE'S GONNA BACKSTEP...
I CAN'T KICK LIKE TAKASHI.
I SHOULD HAVE PRACTICED MORE.

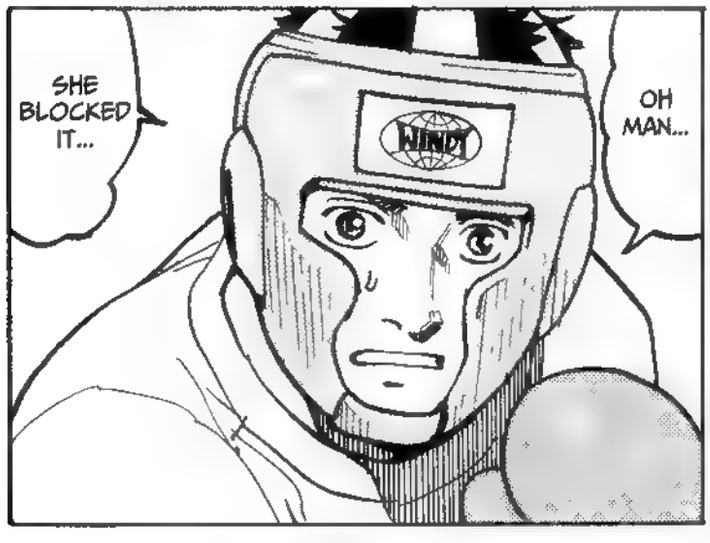

!

I'M IN!
HE'S IN CLOSE ...
OH...
HUH?
WINDY
WINDY

?!
IS HE GOING FOR A LEFT BODY-BLOW?!
HE'S COMING IN FROM BELOW!
!
THAT'S FROM HIS SECOND AMATEUR FIGHT...
THAT PUNCH !

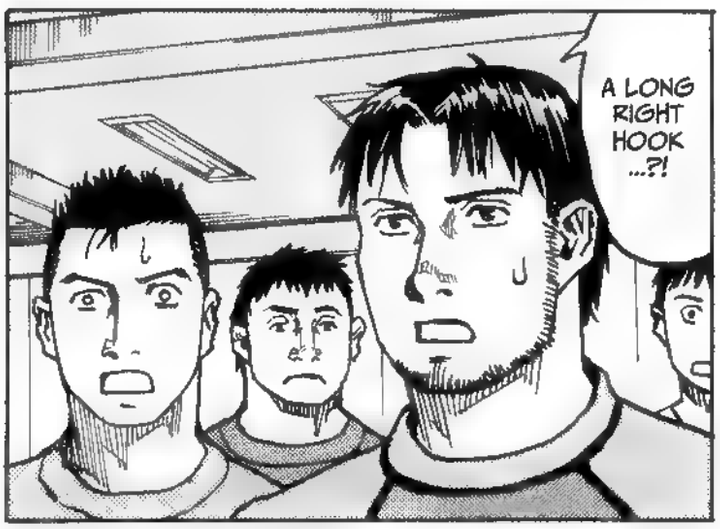


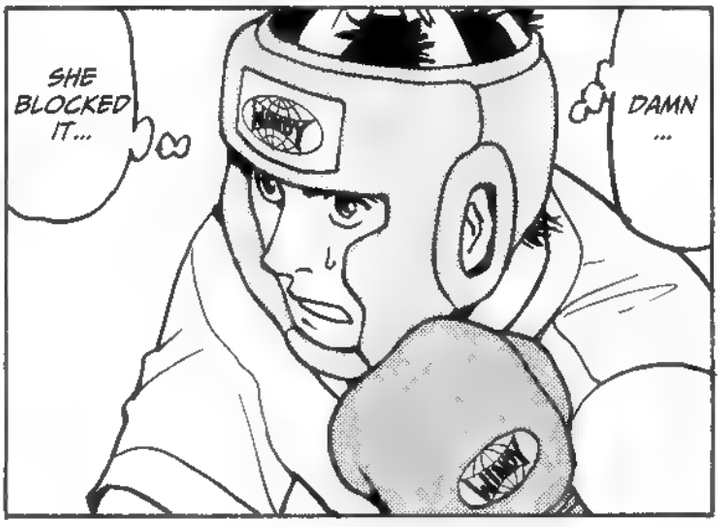

..ANY MOVE USED ON HIM?!
CAN HE COPY...


SHE BLOCKED IT...
OH MAN...
WINDY

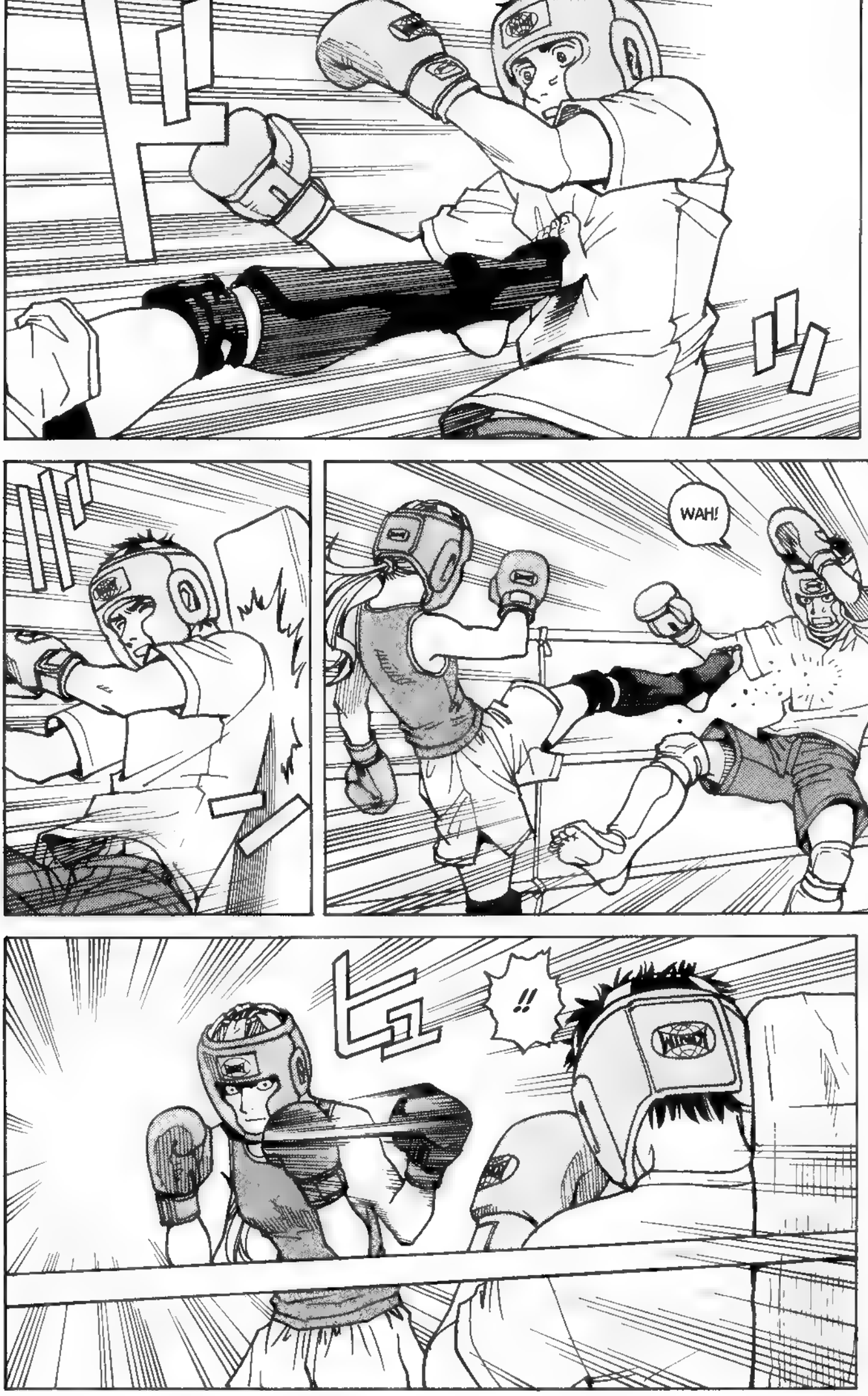
Chapter 11 | The "Blows" in "Mastery of Blows and Throws" (Part 2)

A!!


A LONG RIGHT HOOK ...?!


SHE BLOCKED IT...
DAMN ...

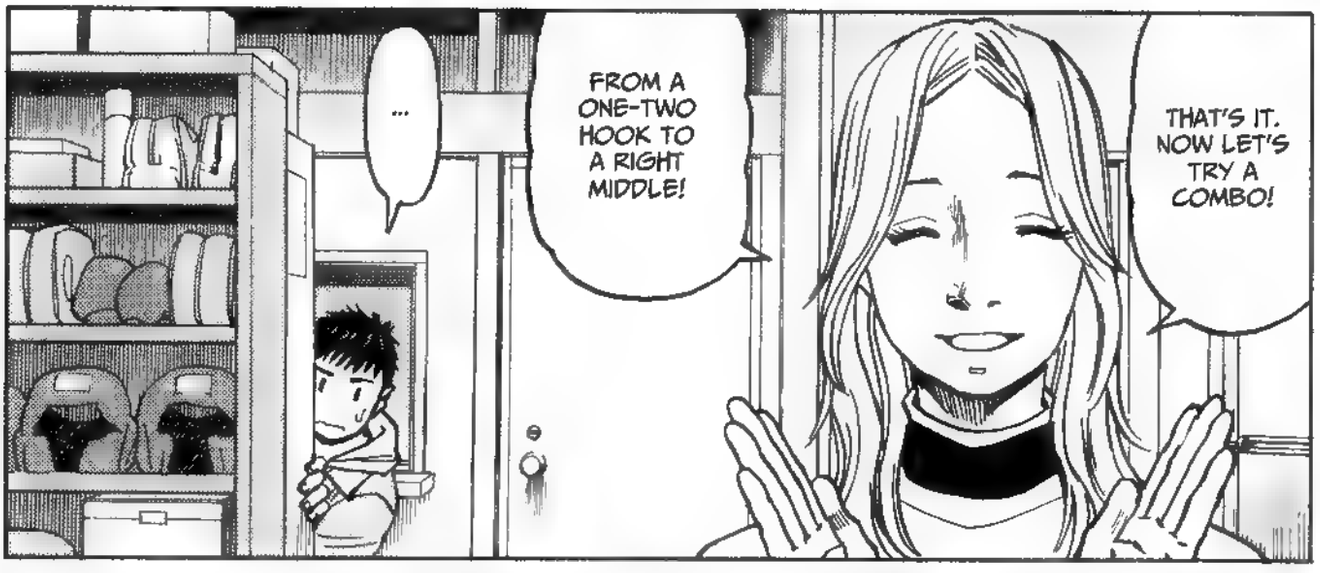
UH-OH.
!
ふらあ
WHEW!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
ばっ
OK!
HUH?
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
YOU GOT HER, MEGURU!
ドガッ


WAH!
!!

ぐぐ
ぱっ
ぱぱん
BUT SHE'S GOT GREAT FRONT AND MIDDLE KICKS AS WELL.
I THOUGHT SHE WAS A TYPICAL BOXER,
しゅん
YIKES!
THAT STARTLED ME!
GWEH!
SHE HONED HER STYLE TO INCLUDE MOSTLY PUNCHES AFTER STUDYING A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT SCHOOLS.
SHE'S ALSO FOUGHT IN HYBRID MATCHES BEFORE.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET KO'D...
...YOU'D BETTER LISTEN TO WHAT MARIA HAS TO TEACH YOU.
BOSS!
WHAT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...
Wleuuuuu~~~~
...IS HAVING A GOOD DEFENSE.
THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KICKBOXING AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.
...
I DON'T KNOW MIXED MARTIAL ARTS.
WHY DON'T YOU TRAIN US?!
... WITH OUR KICK-BOXERS.
BESIDES, I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL...

The next day - Saturday
OK, NOW LEFT MIDDLE!
KICK
BOXING
MMA

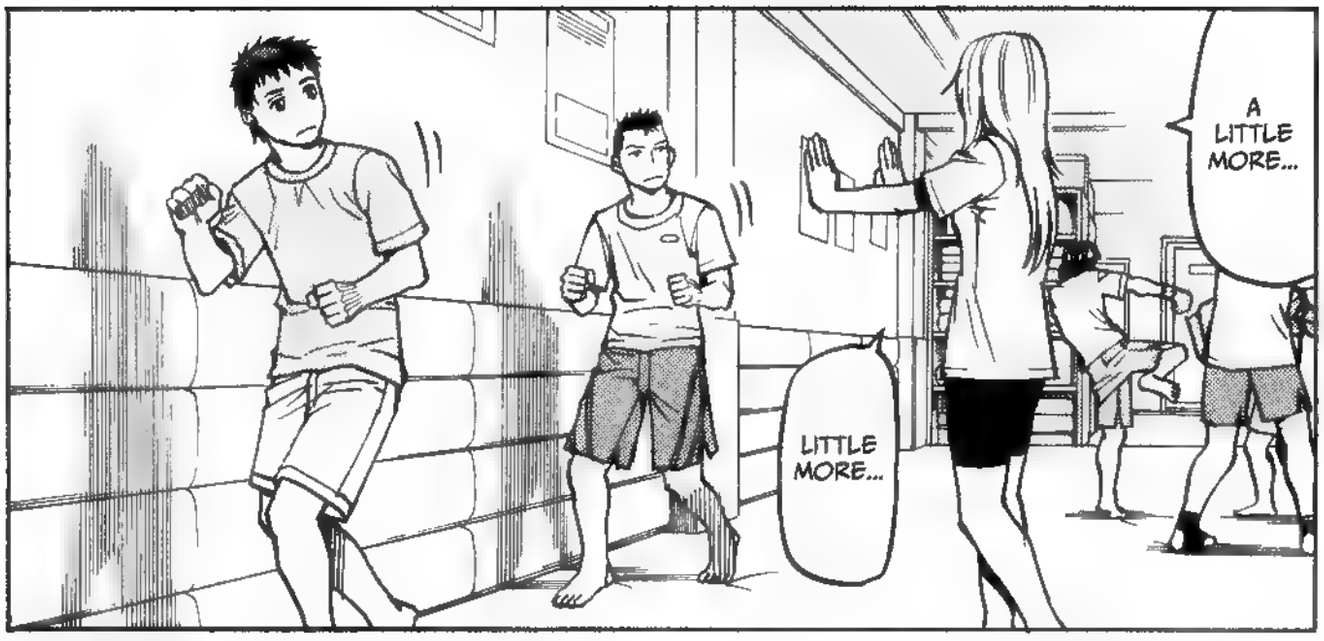

...
FROM A ONE-TWO HOOK TO A RIGHT MIDDLE!
THAT'S IT. NOW LET'S TRY A COMBO!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
WAH!
IT'S JUST ALL WOMEN, SO...
IT'S THE LADIES' FITNESS CLASS, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?!

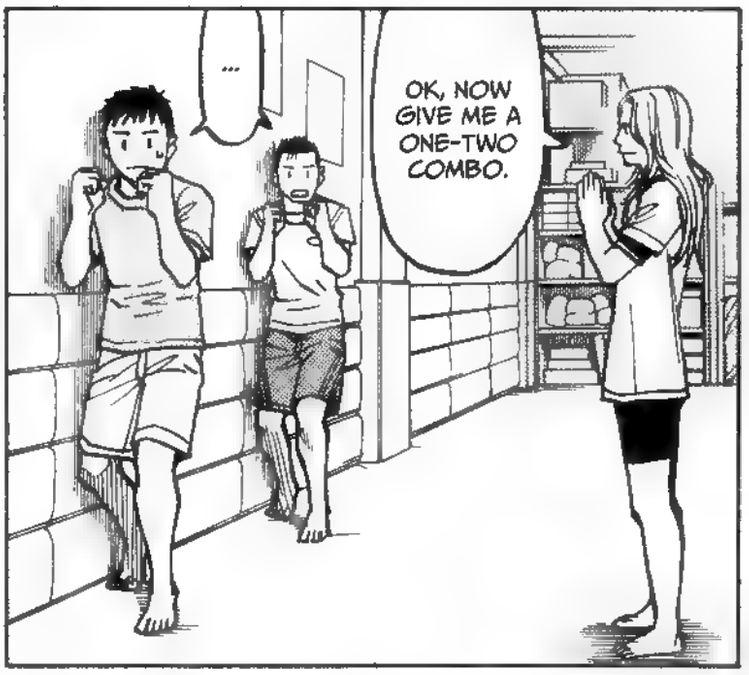
...

...
COME ON IN, BOYS.
JOLT
WHY'D YOU WANT US TO COME SO EARLY?
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE LONGER THAN JUST AN HOUR.
WAH!
GOOD MORNING!
YOU'VE GOT GUTS, YUDAI!
YOU CAN'T CHANGE HERE!
HEY, YOU TWO!

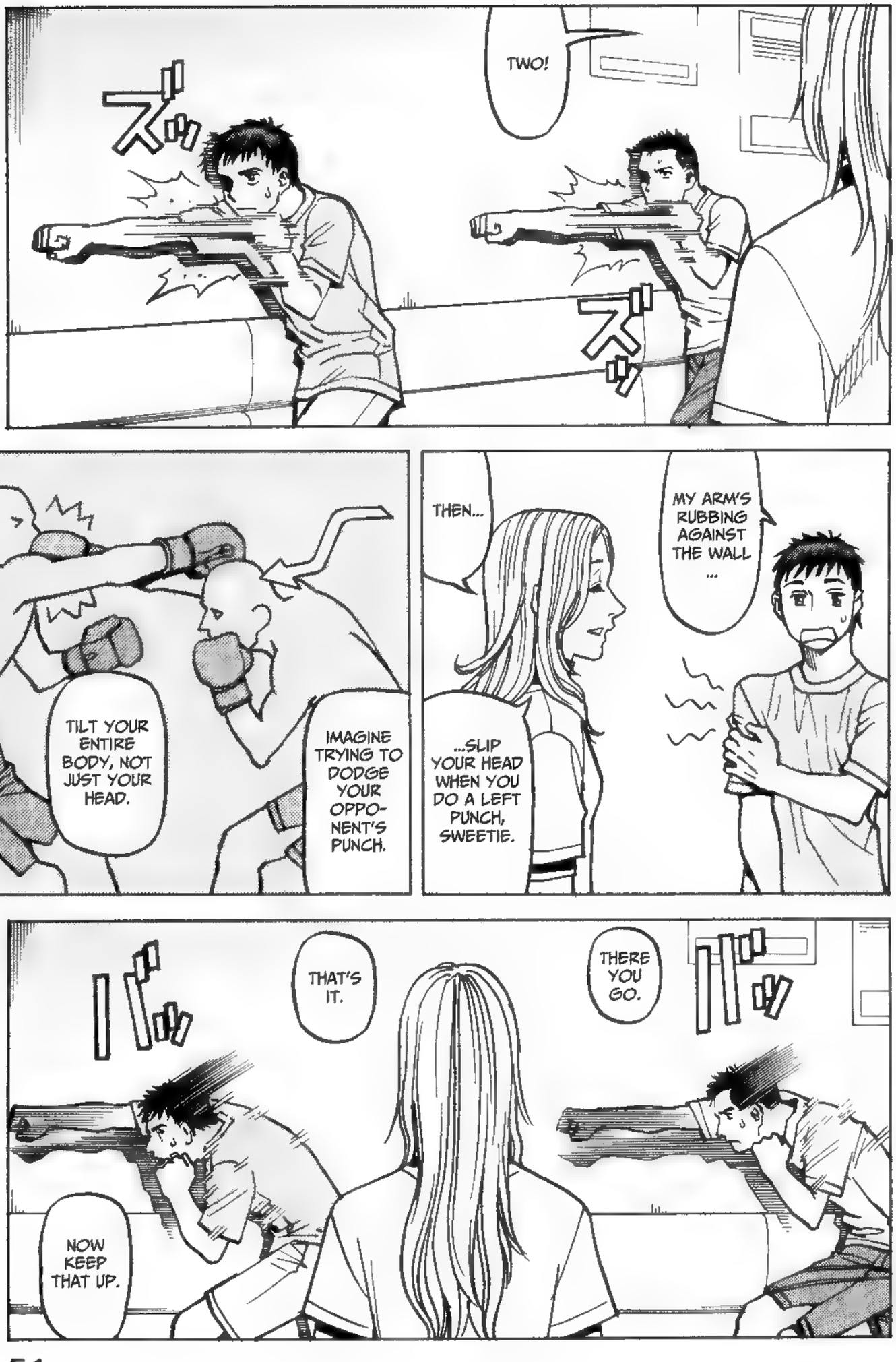
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.
WISH I WERE A KICK-BOXER...
THERE'S A LOT MORE GIRLS IN KICK-BOXING.
THERE ARE LADIES PRESENT!
GO USE THE CHANGING ROOM.
MEGURU.
A LITTLE MORE TO YOUR RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET STARTED ...
...WITH A LITTLE SHADOW BOXING.
YOU, TOO, YUDAI.
A LITTLE MORE TO THE RIGHT.


A LITTLE MORE...
LITTLE MORE...

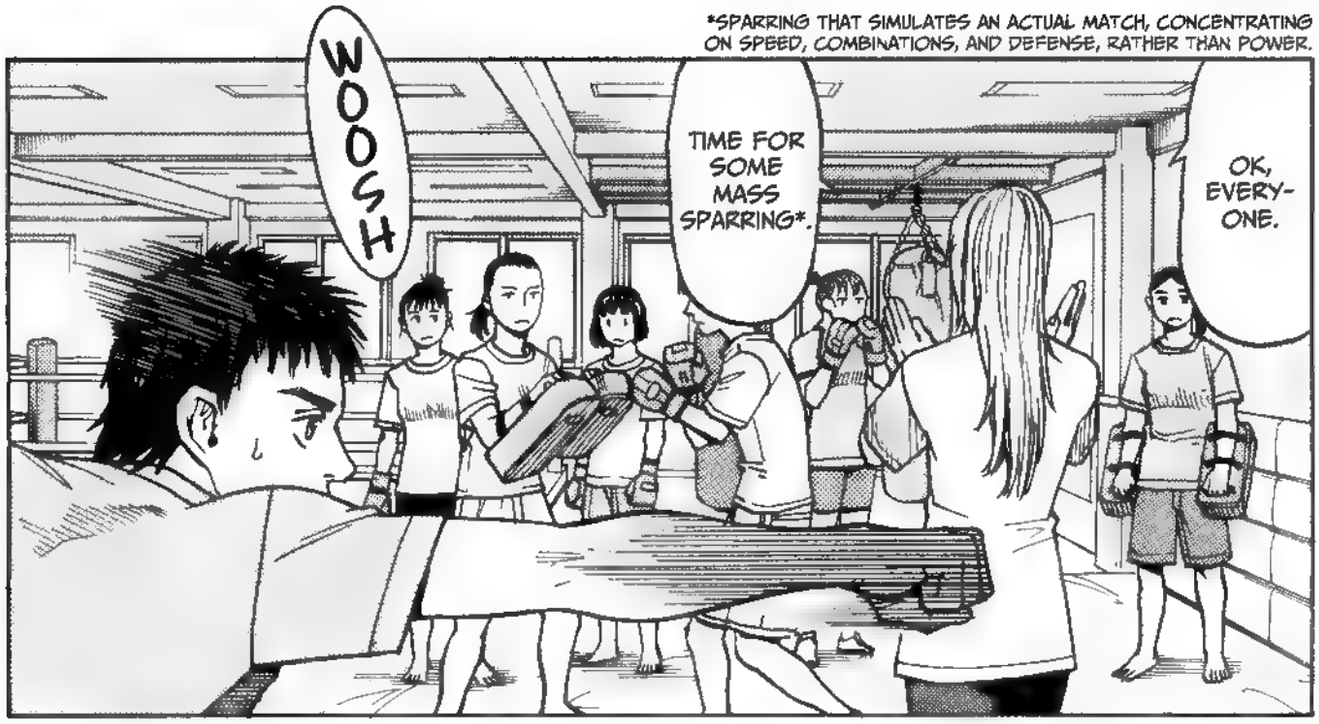
EXCUSE ME, BUT...
THAT'LL KEEP YOU FROM STICKING YOUR ELBOW OUT.

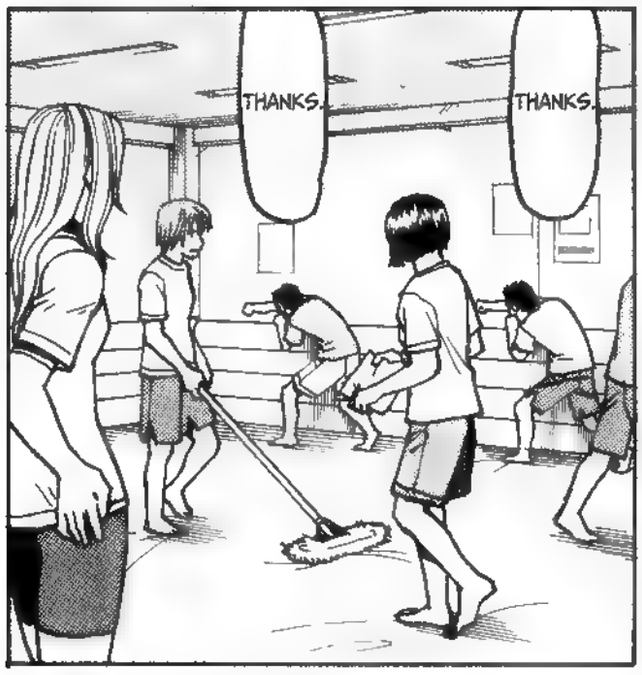

...
OK, NOW GIVE ME A ONE-TWO COMBO.

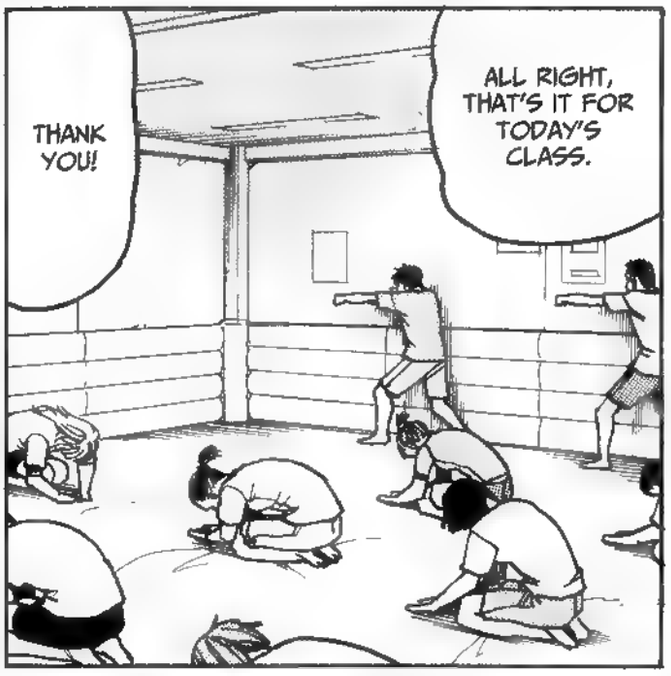
OK, ONE!
ばっ
ばっ

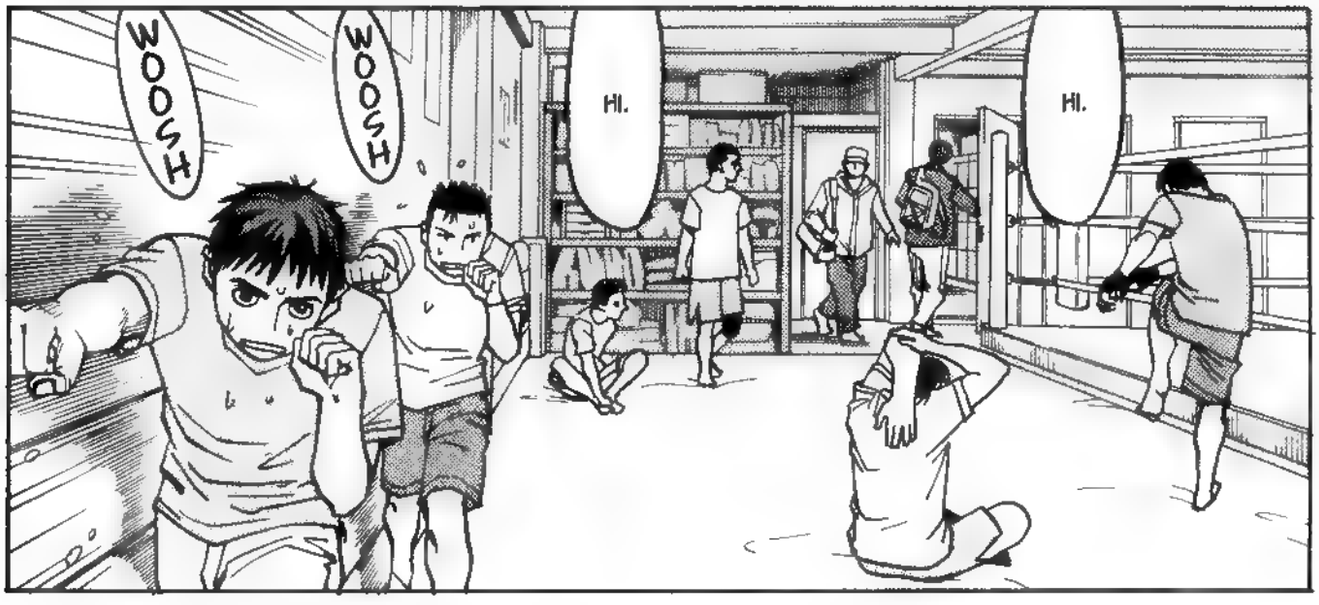

TWO!
ズッ
ズッ
TILT YOUR ENTIRE BODY, NOT JUST YOUR HEAD.
IMAGINE TRYING TO DODGE YOUR OPPO-NENT'S PUNCH.
THEN...
...SLIP YOUR HEAD WHEN YOU DO A LEFT PUNCH, SWEETIE.
MY ARM'S RUBBING AGAINST THE WALL ...
NOW KEEP THAT UP.
THAT'S IT.
THERE YOU GO.

*SPARRING THAT SIMULATES AN ACTUAL MATCH, CONCENTRATING ON SPEED, COMBINATIONS, AND DEFENSE, RATHER THAN POWER.

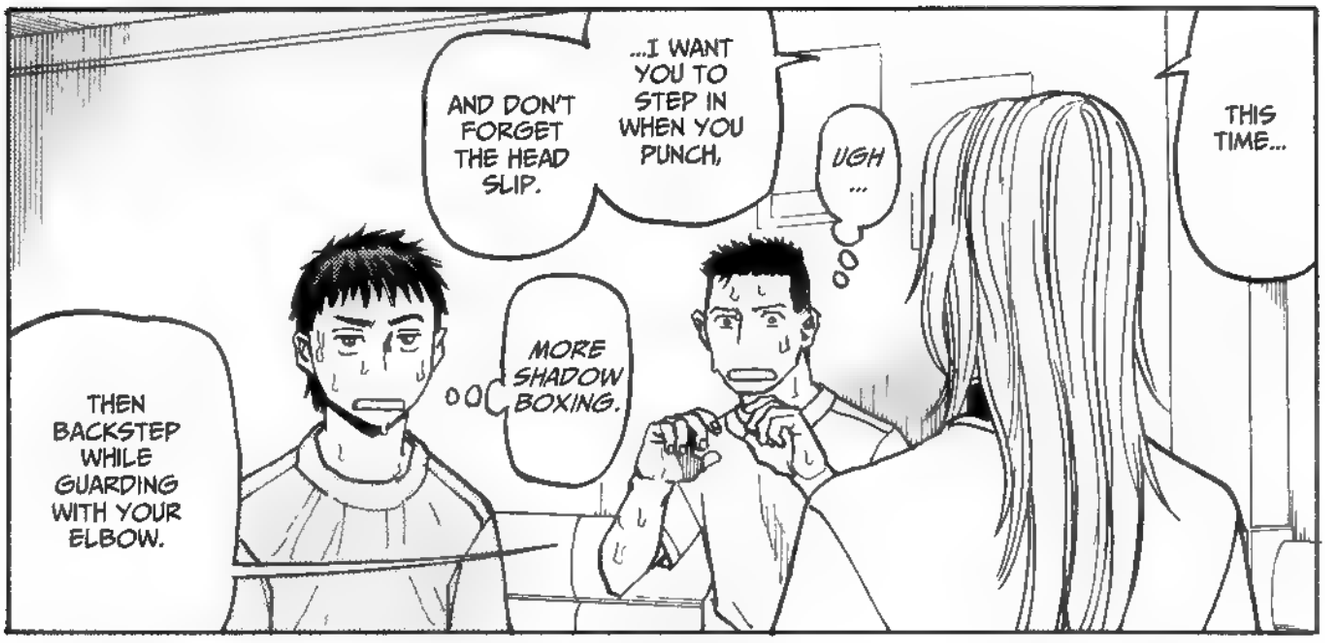








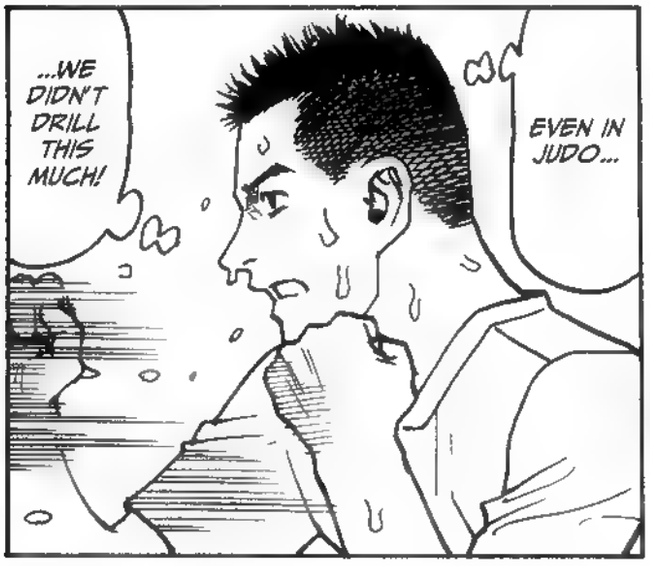
WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR OVER AN HOUR!
gasp
...DO WE HAVE TO KEEP THIS UP?!
gasp
...LONG...
gasp
JUST HOW...
gasp
WE CAN FINALLY DO SOME-THING ELSE.
YES!
ALL RIGHT.

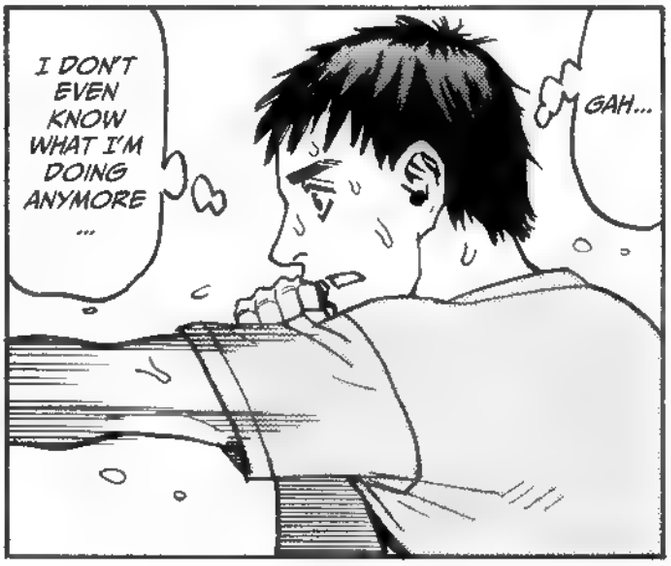

THEN BACKSTEP WHILE GUARDING WITH YOUR ELBOW.
AND DON'T FORGET THE HEAD SLIP.
...I WANT YOU TO STEP IN WHEN YOU PUNCH,
MORE SHADOW BOXING.
UGH ...
THIS TIME...

RAISE YOUR GUARD.
AND BACK-STEP.

TWO.
HEAD SLIP ON TWO...

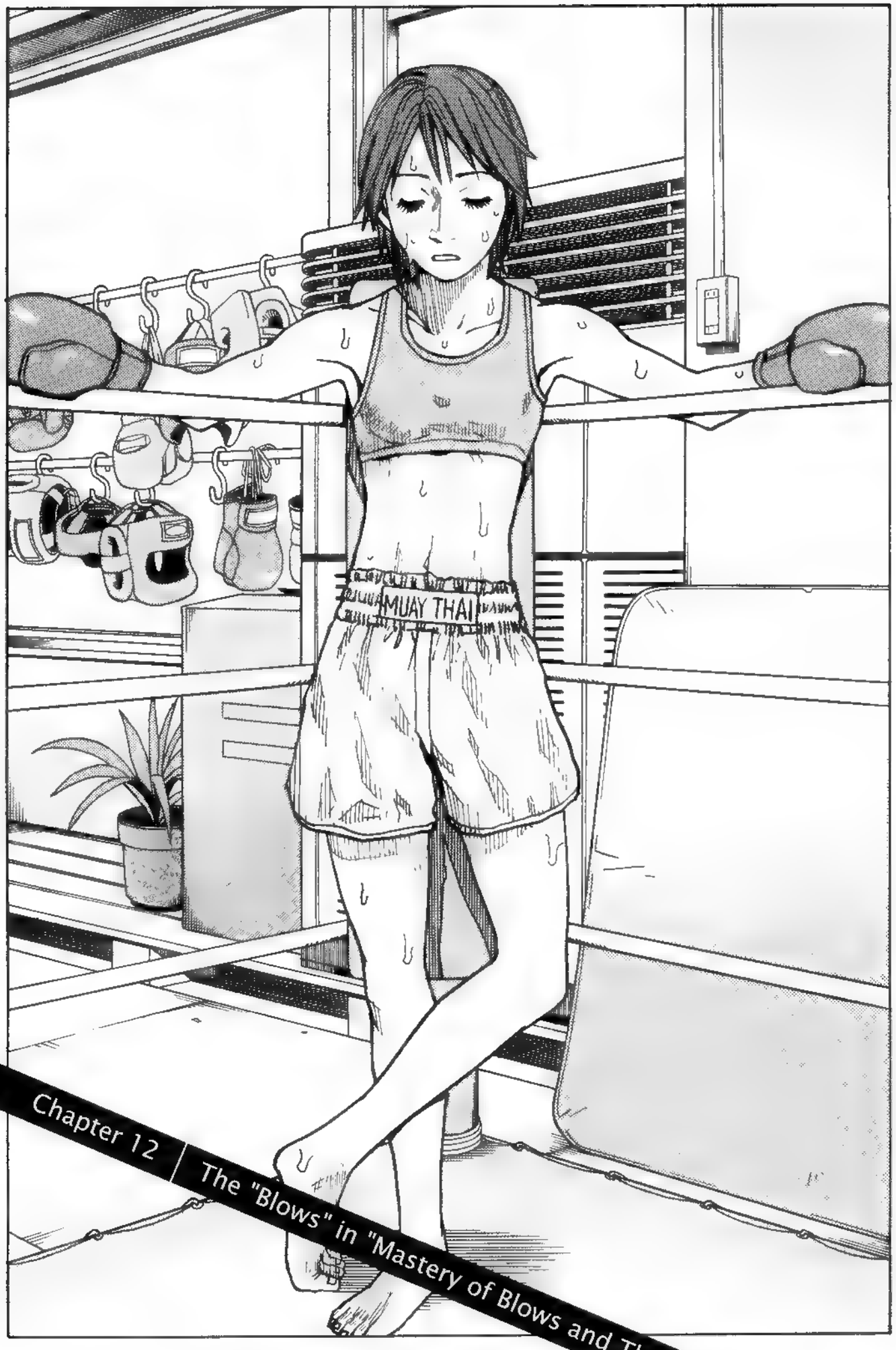
STEP IN.
AND ONE.


...WE DIDN'T DRILL THIS MUCH!
EVEN IN JUDO...


I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M DOING ANYMORE ...
GAH...

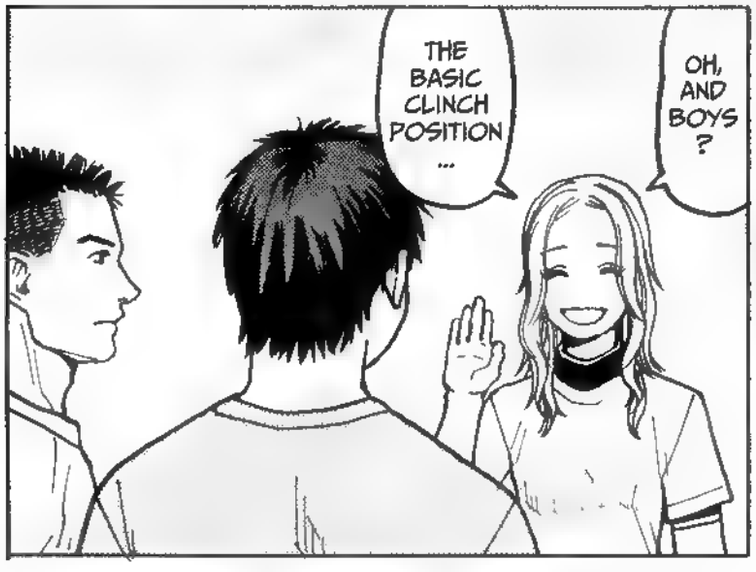
THEY DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT...
HMM...
BUT AT LEAST THEY CAN FOLLOW DIRECTIONS WITHOUT COMPLAIN-ING...
DON'T FORGET TO WIPE DOWN THE MAT.
huff
huff
puff
Two hours later
THAT'S IT.
GREAT.
YEAH?
HEY, TAKE, SWEETIE!
OK, NOW LET'S DO SOME CLINCHES.
WHERE'S KEN?

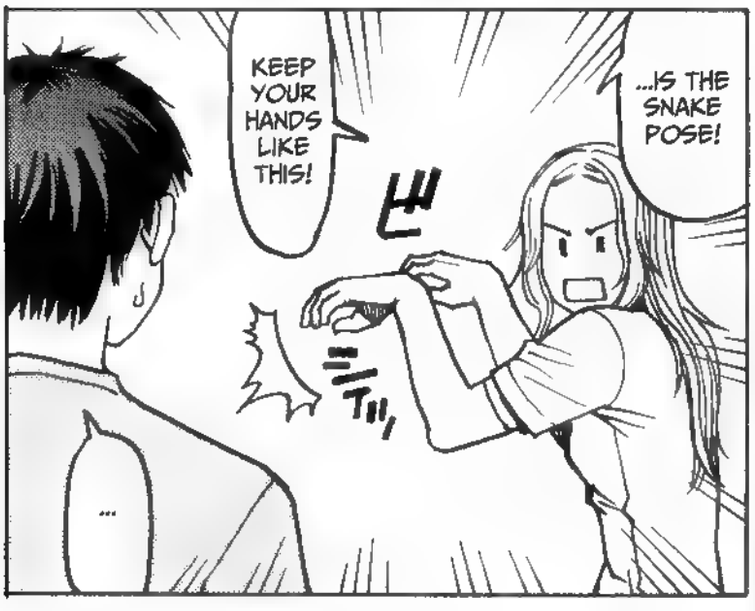
YEAH?
MAKI!
OH!
OH, ALL RIGHT.
KENZO'S TAKING A BREAK.
179cm
HOLY COW ...
SHE'S TALL!
171cm
SURE.
I WANT YOU TO DO SOME CLINCHES WITH THESE TWO.
!
YOU, TOO.
NICE TO MEET YOU.



Chapter 12 | The "Blows" in "Mastery of Blows and Throws" (Part 3)

MEGURU, YOU PAIR UP WITH MAKI.
OK, LET'S DO SOME CLINCHES NEXT. 3 ROUNDS OF 10 MINUTES.
AND YUDAI, YOU PAIR UP WITH TAKE.

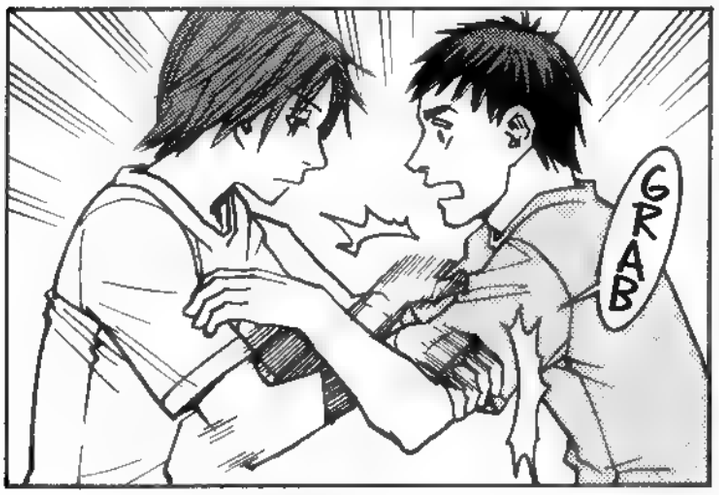

THE BASIC CLINCH POSITION ...
OH, AND BOYS ?

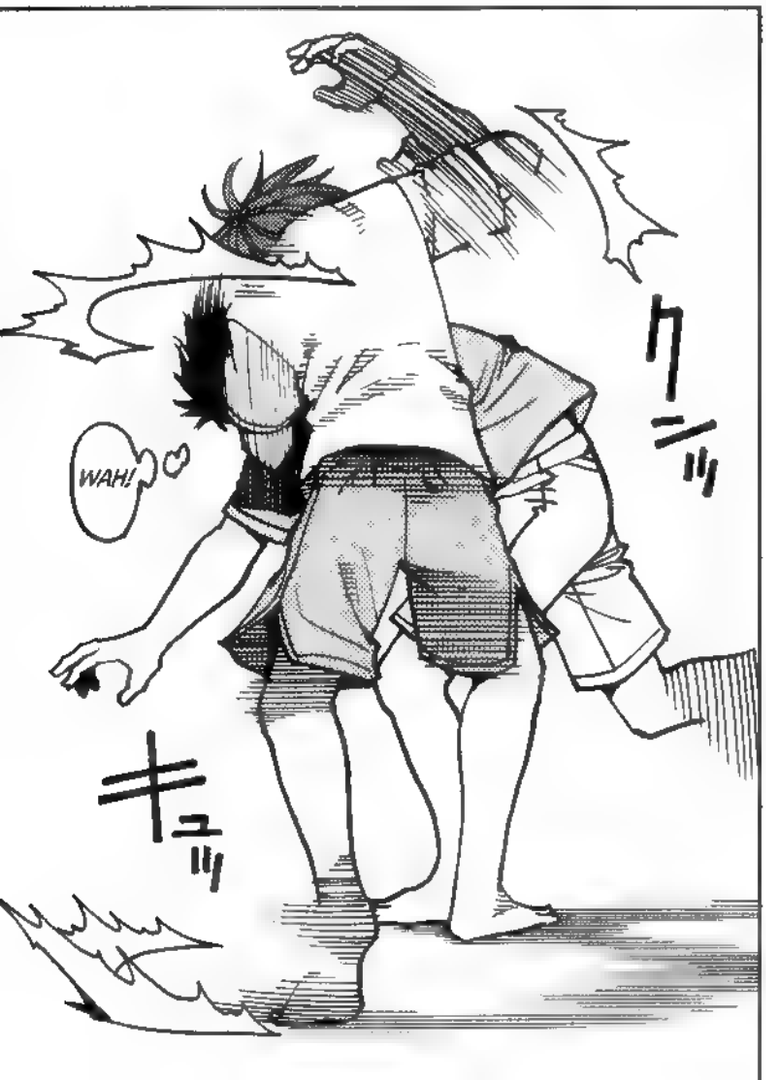

KEEP YOUR HANDS LIKE THIS!
...IS THE SNAKE POSE!
...

ぽっか～ん
...
SHE'S SO TALL ...

LIKE THIS?
LET'S SEE...
...

READY!
OK, LET'S GET STARTED!
BEEP

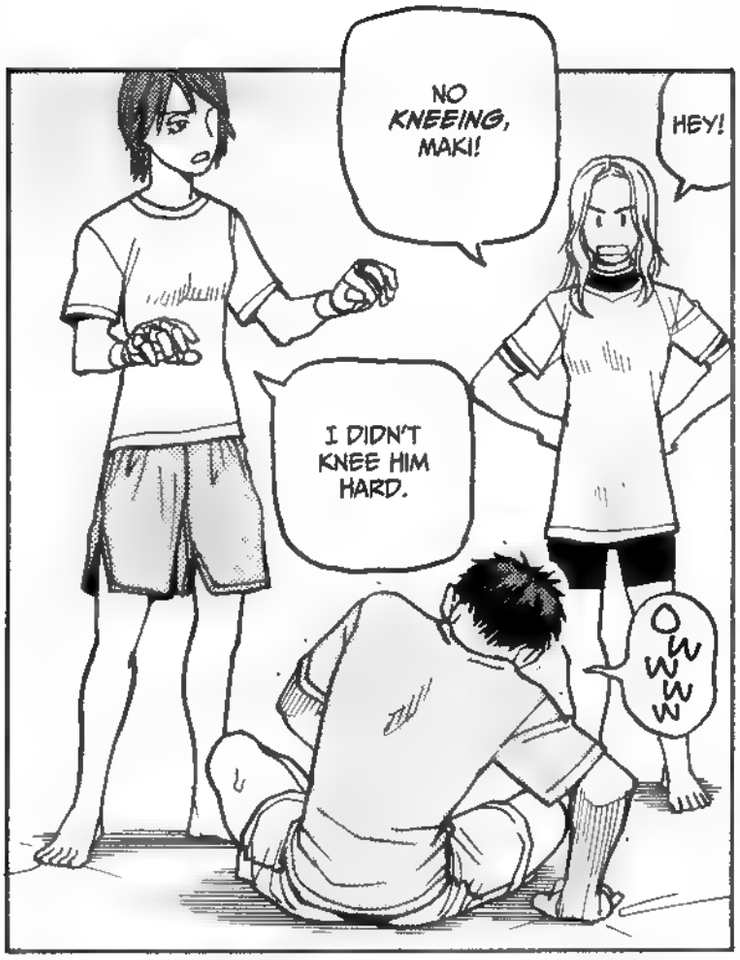

GRAB


WAH!

GRAB
STOMP

GET RIGHT BACK UP AGAIN.
WHA...
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?
WAH!
ONE MORE TIME!

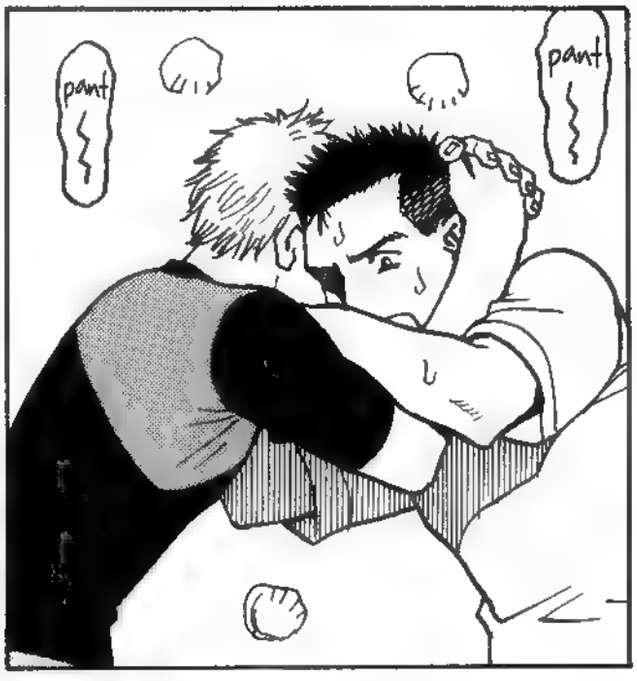
WAHH
!


NO KNEEING, MAKI!
HEY!
I DIDN'T KNEE HIM HARD.
OWWW

GA RK

THIS'LL REALLY STRENGTHEN YOUR TORSO.
...
Wah

YEAH...
!
YOU OK?


pant
pant

THAT'S WHY YOU USE THE SNAKE POSE.
AND CLEARLY ...
...YOU'VE GOTTA KEEP YOUR ELBOWS IN POSITION.
I GET IT! BEFORE YOU CAN GRAB THEIR NECK...
...WHO-EVER HAS A LONGER REACH HAS THE ADVAN-TAGE...
GOT IT!
BUT WHAT GOOD IS UNDER-STANDING IT...
ガバッ
...IF I CAN'T ACTUALLY DO IT?!
すってーん

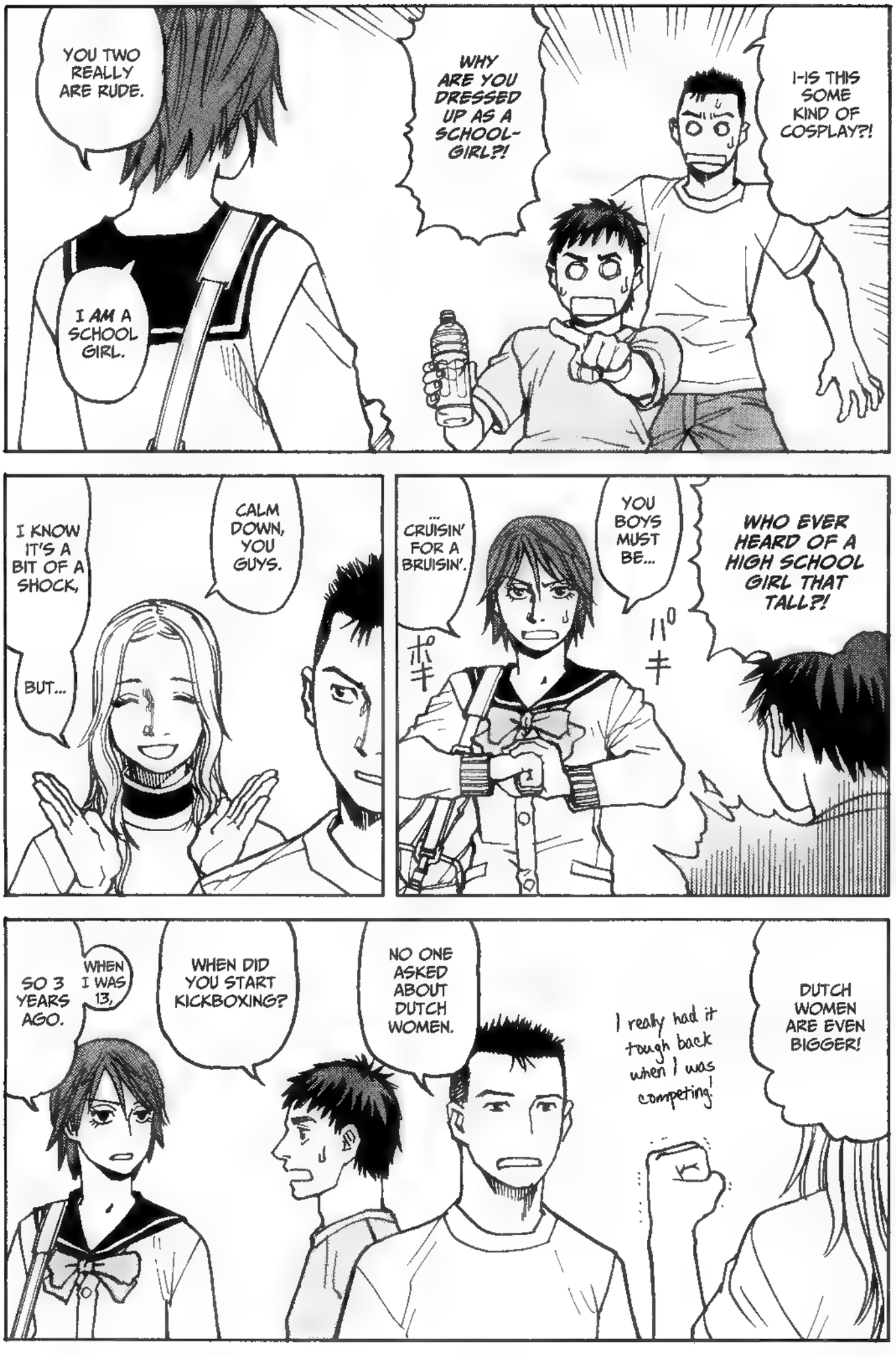
THAT'S NOT A BREAK!
IN WHICH WE'LL DO 20 PUSH-UPS.
OK!
30-SECOND BREAK!
BEEP
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS BALANCE AND TIMING!
CLINCHES AREN'T ABOUT STRENGTH.
OK, NOW SWITCH PARTNERS.
BEEP

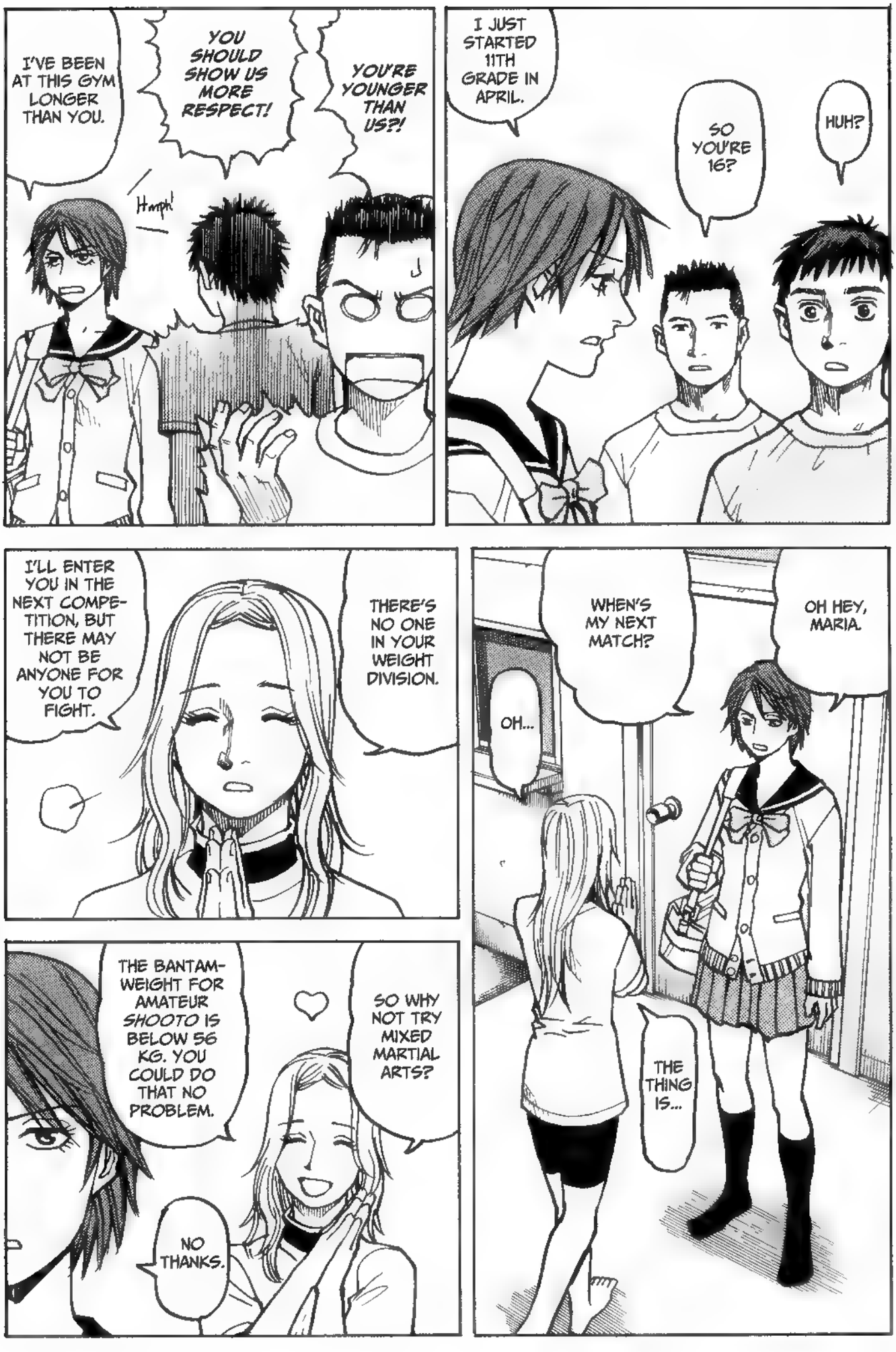
NIGHT!
GOOD NIGHT!

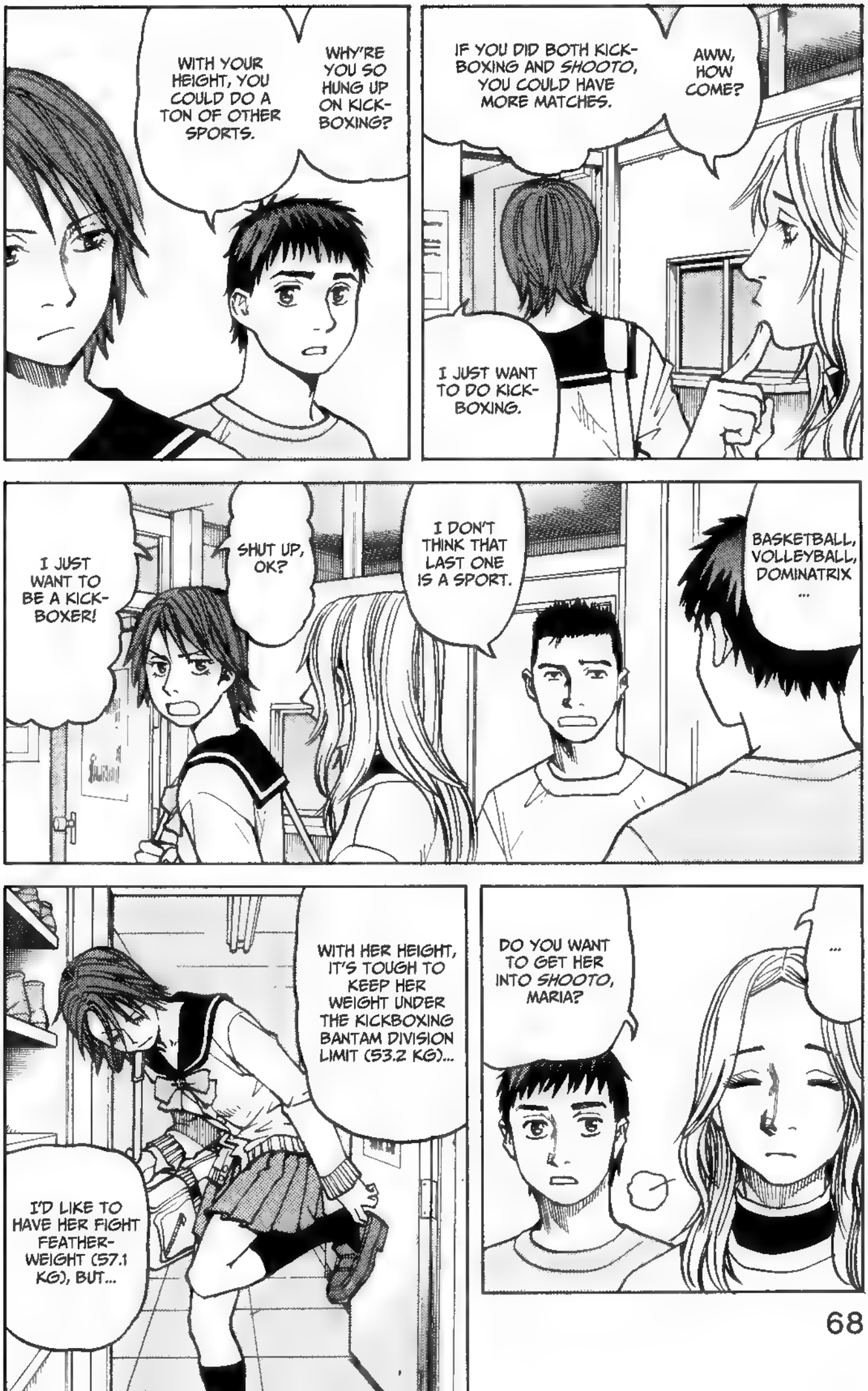
SPLURT

HEY, THAT'S SEXIST, YUDAI.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I KEEP LOSING TO GIRLS...
DAMN IT!

WHO EVER HEARD OF A GIRL THAT TALL ANYWAY?!
I HEARD THERE'S A GIRL...
...IN THE KICKBOXING CLASS WHO'S OVER 180 CM TALL.
HOW RUDE.
IT'S 179 CM.


I-IS THIS SOME KIND OF COSPLAY?!
WHY ARE YOU DRESSED UP AS A SCHOOL-GIRL?!
YOU TWO REALLY ARE RUDE.
I AM A SCHOOL GIRL.
WHO EVER HEARD OF A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL THAT TALL?!
YOU BOYS MUST BE...
...CRUISIN' FOR A BRUISIN'.
ポキ
CALM DOWN, YOU GUYS.
I KNOW IT'S A BIT OF A SHOCK,
BUT...
DUTCH WOMEN ARE EVEN BIGGER!
I really had it tough back when I was competing!
NO ONE ASKED ABOUT DUTCH WOMEN.
WHEN DID YOU START KICKBOXING?
WHEN I WAS 13,
SO 3 YEARS AGO.


I'VE BEEN AT THIS GYM LONGER THAN YOU.
YOU SHOULD SHOW US MORE RESPECT!
YOU'RE YOUNGER THAN US?!
Hmph!
I JUST STARTED 11TH GRADE IN APRIL.
SO YOU'RE 16?
HUH?
I'LL ENTER YOU IN THE NEXT COMPETITION, BUT THERE MAY NOT BE ANYONE FOR YOU TO FIGHT.
THERE'S NO ONE IN YOUR WEIGHT DIVISION.
THE BANTAMWEIGHT FOR AMATEUR SHOOTO IS BELOW 56 KG. YOU COULD DO THAT NO PROBLEM.
SO WHY NOT TRY MIXED MARTIAL ARTS?
NO THANKS.
OH HEY, MARIA.
WHEN'S MY NEXT MATCH?
OH...
THE THING IS...

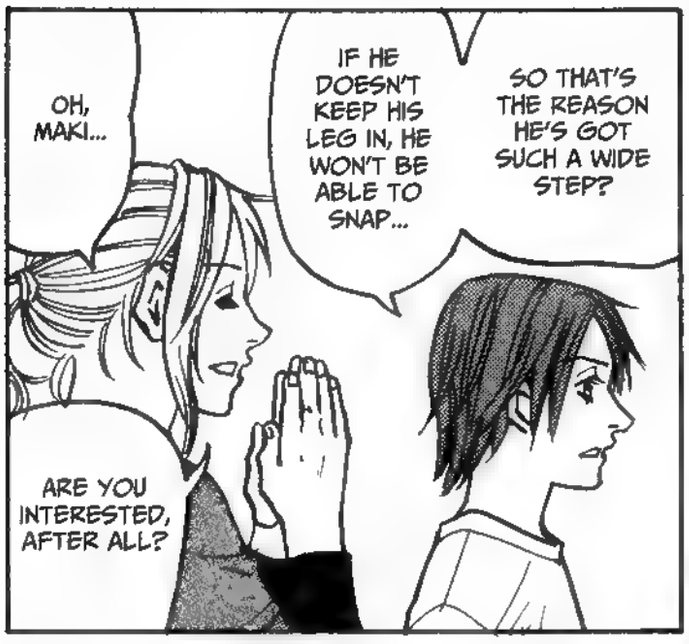

WITH YOUR HEIGHT, YOU COULD DO A TON OF OTHER SPORTS.
WHY'RE YOU SO HUNG UP ON KICK-BOXING?
IF YOU DID BOTH KICK-BOXING AND SHOOTO, YOU COULD HAVE MORE MATCHES.
AWW, HOW COME?
I JUST WANT TO DO KICK-BOXING.
I JUST WANT TO BE A KICK-BOXER!
SHUT UP, OK?
I DON'T THINK THAT LAST ONE IS A SPORT.
BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, DOMINATRIX ...
WITH HER HEIGHT, IT'S TOUGH TO KEEP HER WEIGHT UNDER THE KICKBOXING BANTAM DIVISION LIMIT (53.2 KG)...
I'D LIKE TO HAVE HER FIGHT FEATHER-WEIGHT (57.1 KG), BUT...
DO YOU WANT TO GET HER INTO SHOOTO, MARIA?
...

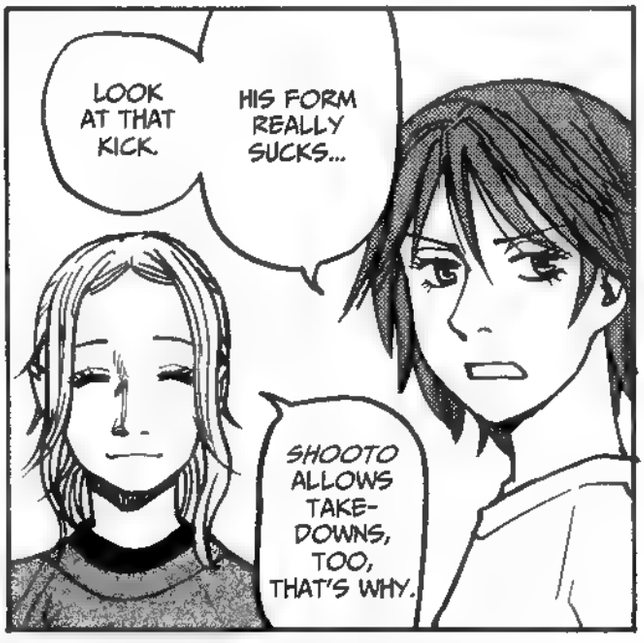
I WISH THERE WERE MORE GIRLS IN THE CIRCUIT, BUT...
HUH...
...SHE'S UNDEFEATED IN THE AMATEUR KICKBOXING CIRCUIT AND HAS NO ONE LEFT TO FIGHT.
SHE COULD GO PRO, BUT THE BOSS SAYS NOT TILL SHE'S 18.
OK, STEP IN AND "ONE."
THEN DO A HEAD SLIP ON "TWO."
The next day (Sunday)

AND AS SOON AS YOU STEP BACK, GIVE ME A LEFT HOOK!
BLOCK WITH YOUR ELBOW AND STEP BACK.
HELLO.
HI.
HA.
THAT'S IT, PRETEND YOU'RE COUNTERING.
HEY, MARIA.
OH, KEN-ICHIRO.
STILL GOT THOSE TWO SHADOW-BOXING, EH?

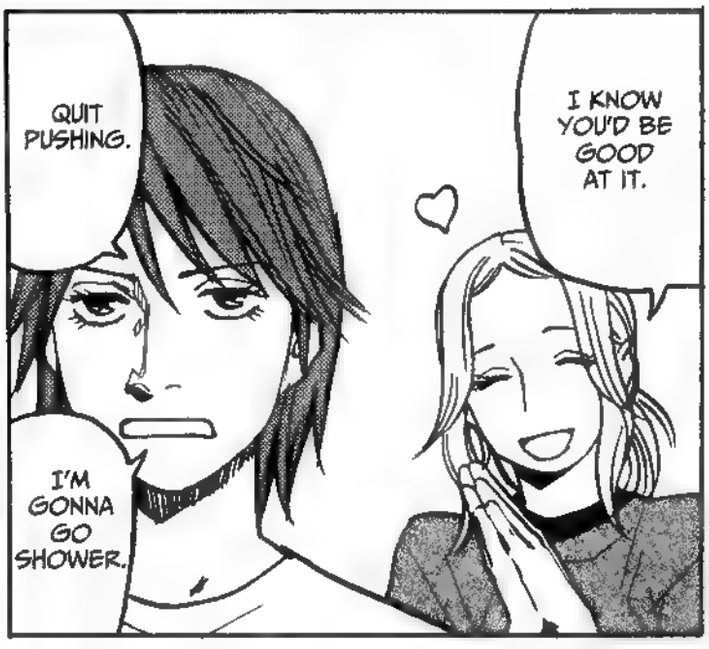
BEEP
THANKS!
OK, NOW LET'S HAVE FOUR ROUNDS OF KICK-ONLY MASS SPARRING.
WHEN IT COMES TO DEFENSE, NOT GETTING HIT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN BLOCKING.
THEY'VE GOTTA LEARN HOW TO GET IN AND OUT AS WELL AS HOW TO BLOCK.
CALL ME MS. KAMIYA!
WHO SAID YOU COULD USE MY FIRST NAME?
LET'S GO, MAKI.
QUIT TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE I'M NOT EVEN HERE!
HOW?
FIND OUT...?
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT FOR YOURSELVES.
GET TO KNOW HER, FRONT TO BACK.
YEAH, MAKI'S THE HOT-'N'-COLD KINDA GIRL.
MARIA, DID YOU HEAR THAT?!
WHERE'S THE "HOT"-PART?

...


OH, MAKI...
IF HE DOESN'T KEEP HIS LEG IN, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SNAP...
SO THAT'S THE REASON HE'S GOT SUCH A WIDE STEP?
ARE YOU INTERESTED, AFTER ALL?


LOOK AT THAT KICK.
HIS FORM REALLY SUCKS...
SHOOTO ALLOWS TAKE-DOWNS, TOO, THAT'S WHY.

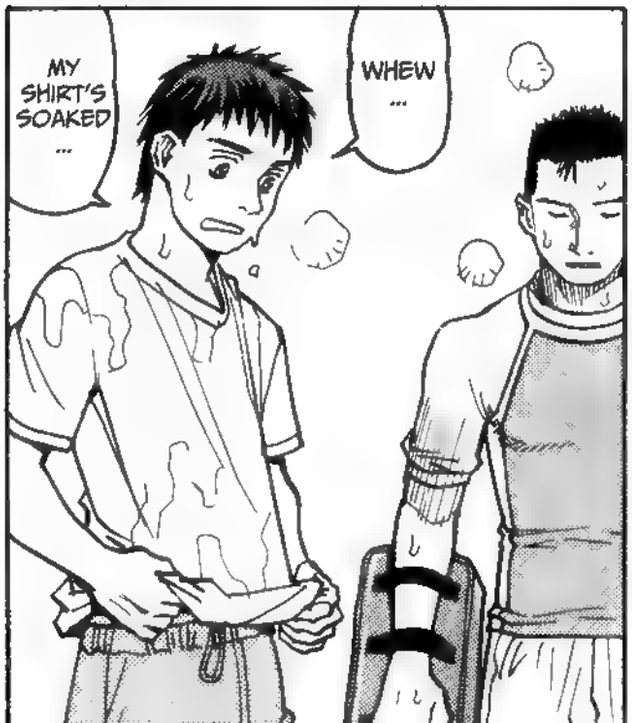
THEY'RE GOOD, STRAIGHT-FORWARD BOYS.
HM?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEM?

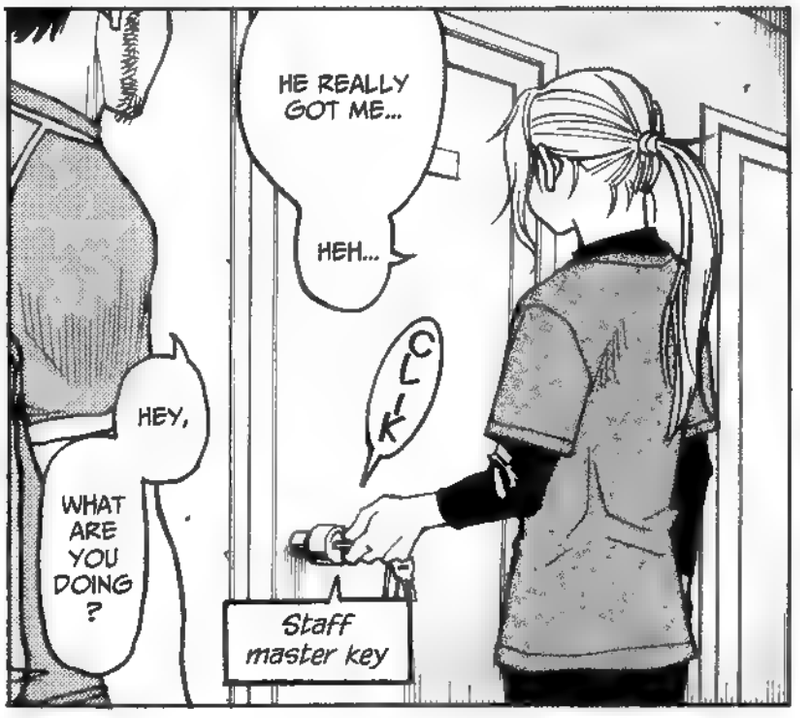

QUIT PUSHING.
I KNOW YOU'D BE GOOD AT IT.
I'M GONNA GO SHOWER.

I THINK HE'S THE TYPE WHO NEEDS TO PRACTICE EVERY LITTLE STEP.
WELL...
YEAH?
WHAT ABOUT MEGURU?
YUDAI'S A NATURAL.
AT FIRST... YEAH,
...I THOUGHT THERE WAS NOTHING ORIGINAL ABOUT HIM.
I'M NOT SURE IF HE'S A QUICK LEARNER OR NOT...
YEAH!
BUT HE GOT YOU WITH THAT LONG RIGHT HOOK, DIDN'T HE?
CLIK

THAT REALLY CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE.
THOUGH NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...
...A SINGLE LEG FEINT LEADING TO A RIGHT HOOK ISN'T ALL THAT UNCOMMON IN SHOOTO.

SIGN: WOMEN'S CHANGING ROOM / PLEASE KNOCK.

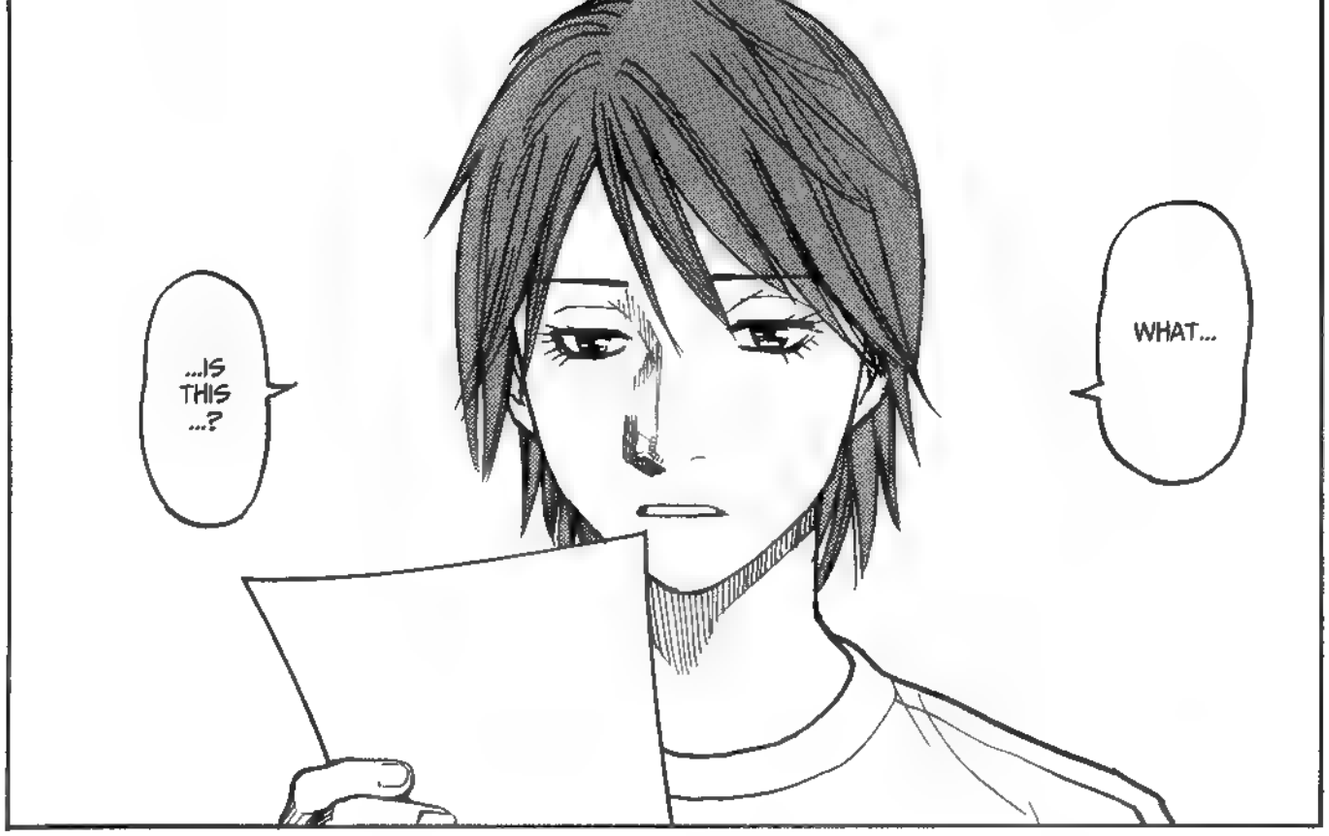


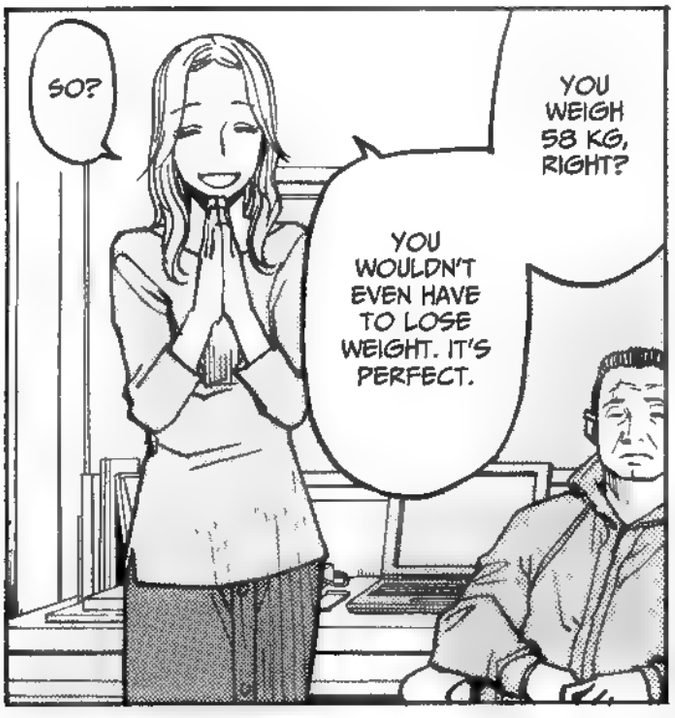


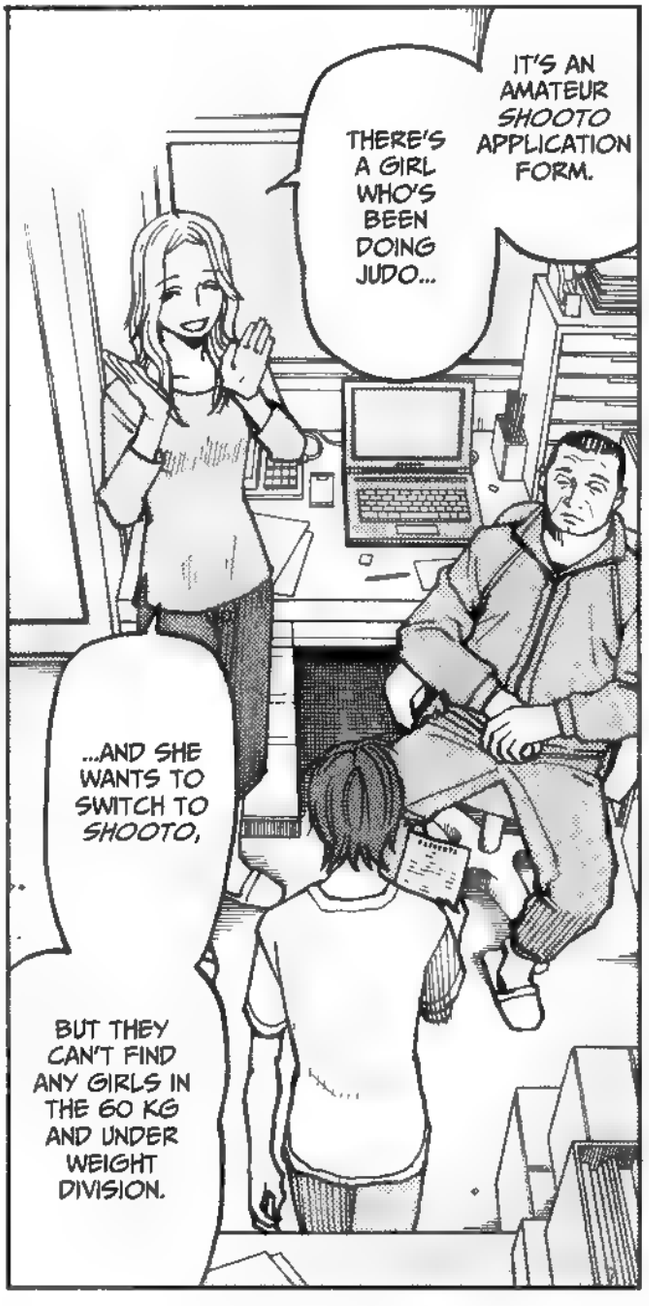
YES, MA'AM.
USE THE CHANGING ROOM!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CHANGE OUT HERE!
HEY, MEGURU!
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS...
ガチャ

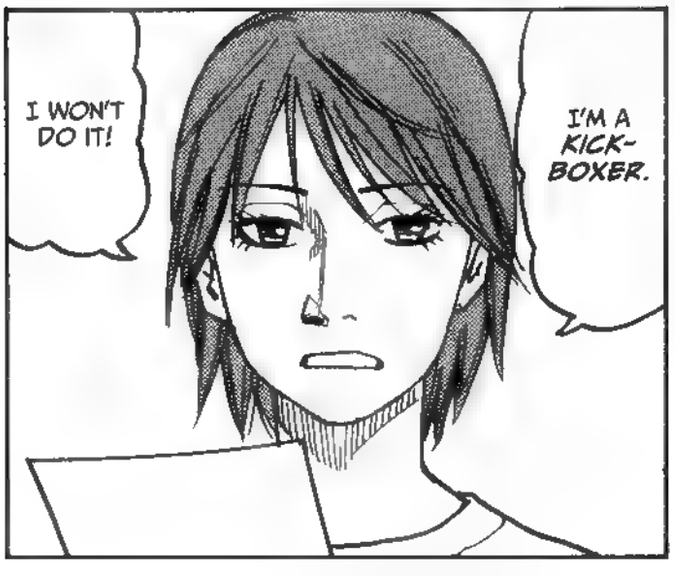
WAIT, I THOUGHT ...
THIS WAS THE MEN'S...
YOU ...
WHA ...?
WHY ...?
HUH?
WAH!
PERVERT !
HAS SHE BEEN PISSED ABOUT IT THIS WHOLE TIME?!
WHAT IS THIS, JUNIOR HIGH...?
I KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
ばきっ
BAKK

Chapter 13 | The "Throws" in "Mastery of Blows and Throws"


WHAT...
...IS THIS ...?


SO?
YOU WEIGH 58 KG, RIGHT?
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE TO LOSE WEIGHT. IT'S PERFECT.

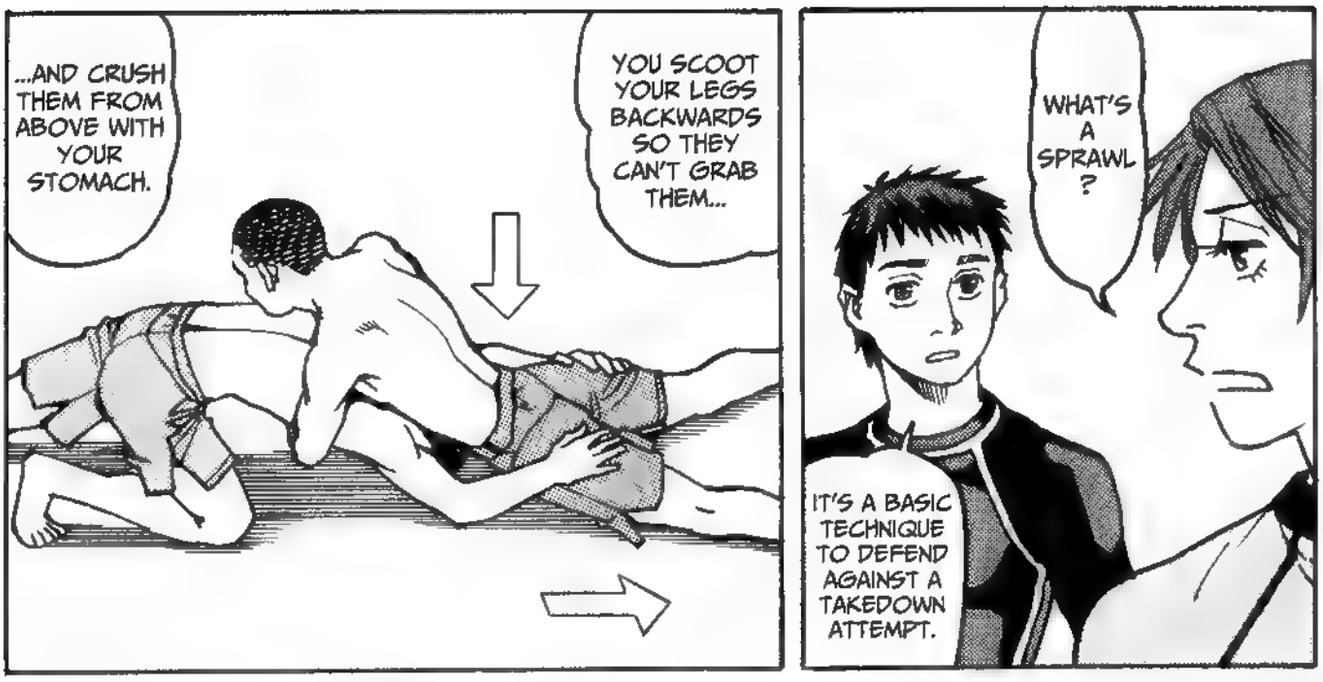

IT'S AN AMATEUR SHOOTO APPLICATION FORM.
THERE'S A GIRL WHO'S BEEN DOING JUDO...
...AND SHE WANTS TO SWITCH TO SHOOTO,
BUT THEY CAN'T FIND ANY GIRLS IN THE 60 KG AND UNDER WEIGHT DIVISION.

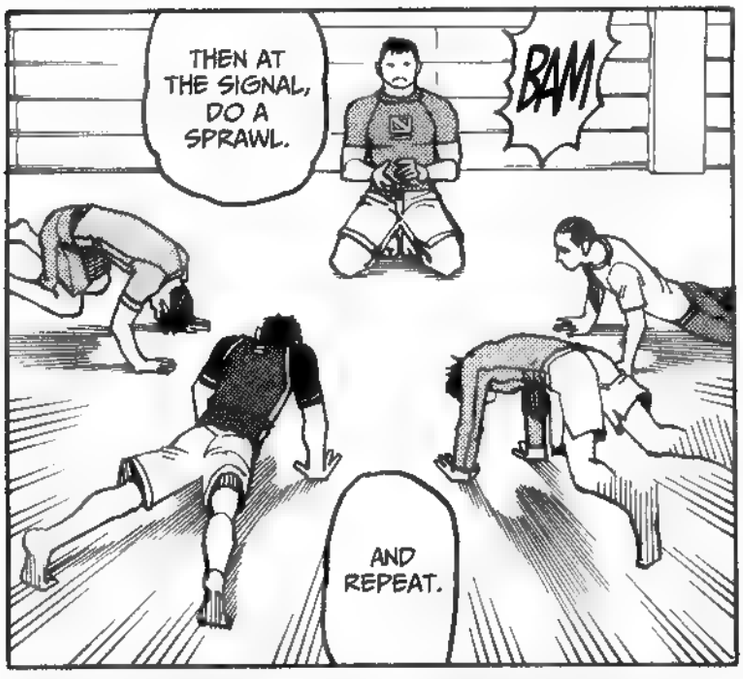

I'M A KICK-BOXER.
I WON'T DO IT!

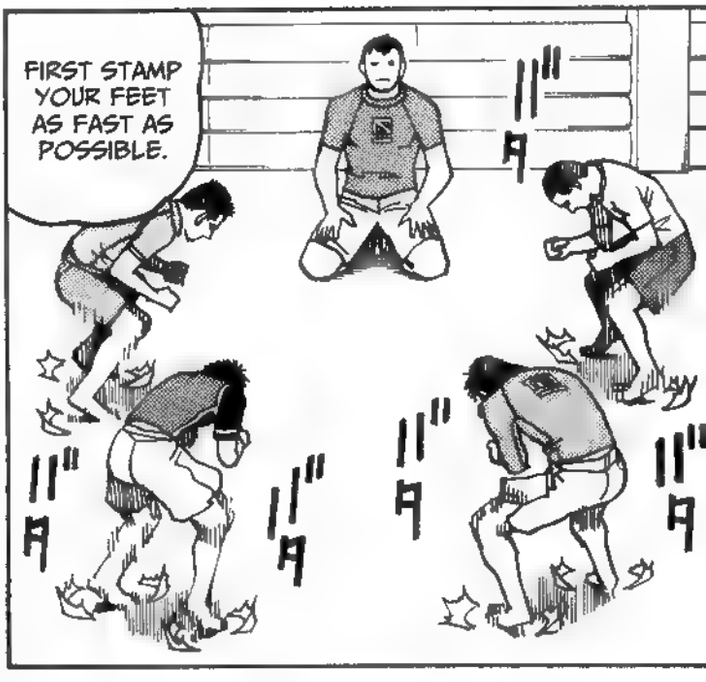
!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE GONNA BE IN THE AMATEUR SHOOTO CONTEST NEXT MONTH?
GLARE
HAVE YOU GOT A FIGHT LINED UP?
WHAT'S UP, MAKI?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE STICKING WITH KICK-BOXING.
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
THE BOSS SAID...

SHOW EVERYONE HOW STRONG KICK-BOXING IS.
THEN KO THIS JUDO GIRL WITH YOUR KICKS.
YES?
KAMI-YA.
WHY DO YOU KICKBOX?
BECAUSE I WANT TO GET STRONG-ER!
Hmph!
MAKI WILL BE JOINING US FOR PRACTICE.
WHOOO!
HMPH!
NICE ONE.
OH...
AND SO...

SO...
OF COURSE THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO LEARN EVERYTHING.
THE MATCH IS IN A MONTH, THOUGH, RIGHT?
WILL YOU BE OK?
HOW MACHO...
WHOA.
I'M NOT GONNA BOTHER WITH ANY GROUND GRAPPLING.
I'M GONNA SHOOT, THROW, AND KICK THE HELL OUT OF HER.
ALL RIGHT.
?
LET'S START WITH A STAMP, THEN A SPRAWL...
OK.
SHOW HER THE BASICS OF WRESTLING.
WATA-NABE.


...AND CRUSH THEM FROM ABOVE WITH YOUR STOMACH.
YOU SCOOT YOUR LEGS BACKWARDS SO THEY CAN'T GRAB THEM...
WHAT'S A SPRAWL?
IT'S A BASIC TECHNIQUE TO DEFEND AGAINST A TAKEDOWN ATTEMPT.


THEN AT THE SIGNAL, DO A SPRAWL.
BAM
AND REPEAT.


FIRST STAMP YOUR FEET AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

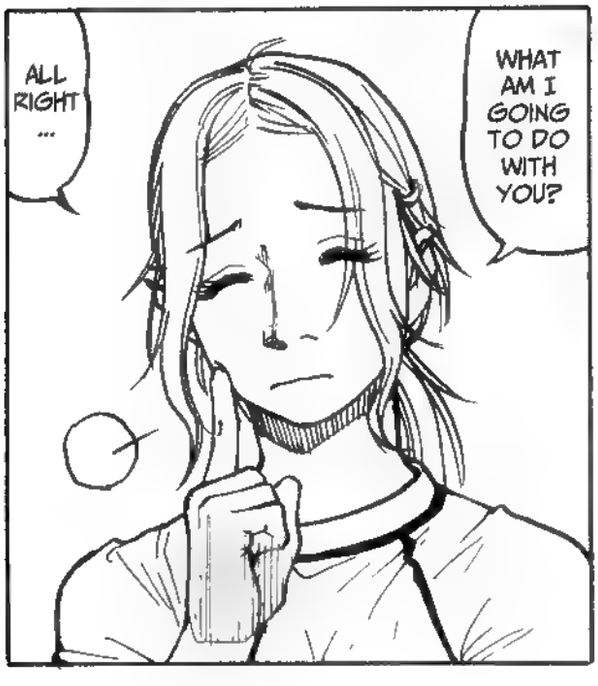
NEXT!
huff
YOU LAUGH, BUT IT'S EXHAUSTING!
huff
Pfff!

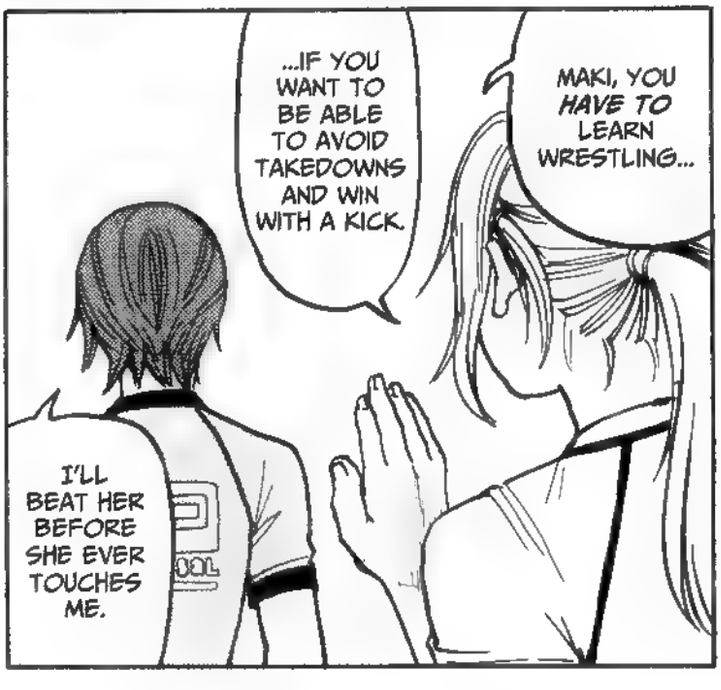
...AND COME AROUND BEHIND.
GRAB HOLD OF THEIR NECK...
ONCE YOU BLOCK THE TAKEDOWN ATTEMPT WITH A SPRAWL,
...PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND THEM IN A YOTSUGUMI* FORMATION.
IF YOUR OPPONENT ALSO GETS UP AND GRABS YOU...
...BEFORE GETTING UP.
OR HOLD THEIR NECK AND BACKSTEP OUT OF REACH...

*A 4-HANDED SYMMETRICAL METHOD OF GRAPPLING BY WHICH THE COMBATANTS LOCK ON TO EACH OTHER'S UPPER TORSO AND ARMS.

GAY ...?!
YOU GUYS LOOK GAY.
LIKE YOU'RE ALL HUGGING EACH OTHER.

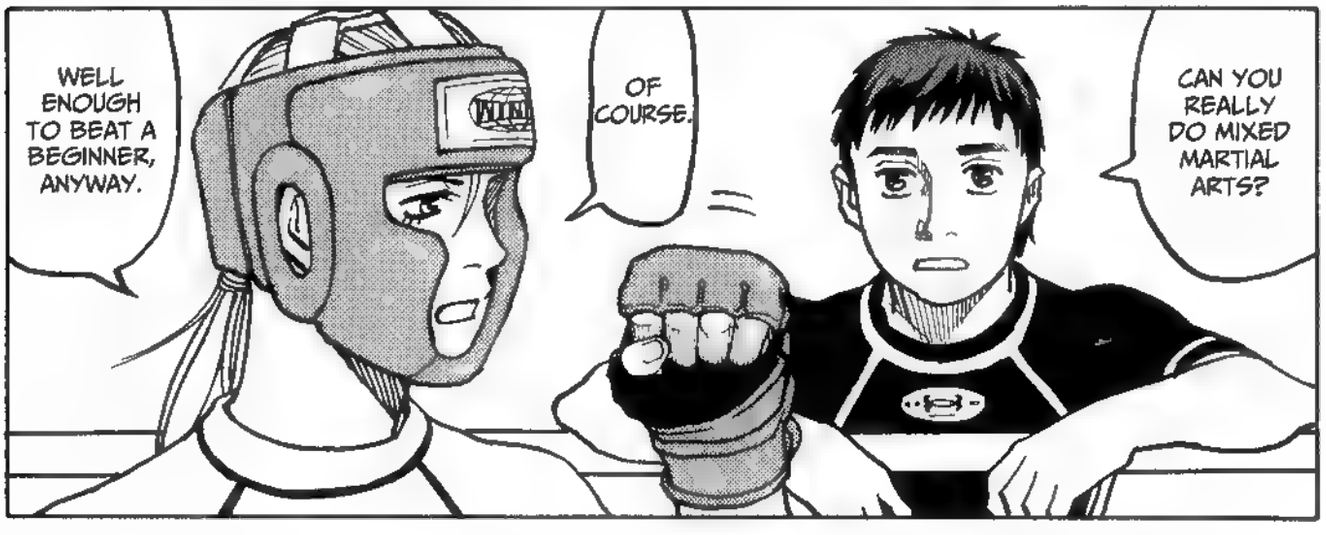
MAKI, MAKI.
YOU MUST BE PRETTY CLOSE, HUH?
RUBBING YOUR CHESTS TOGETHER AND PANTING...
THAT KIND OF THINKING COULD ROCK THE FOUNDATIONS OF WRESTLING.


ALL RIGHT ...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?

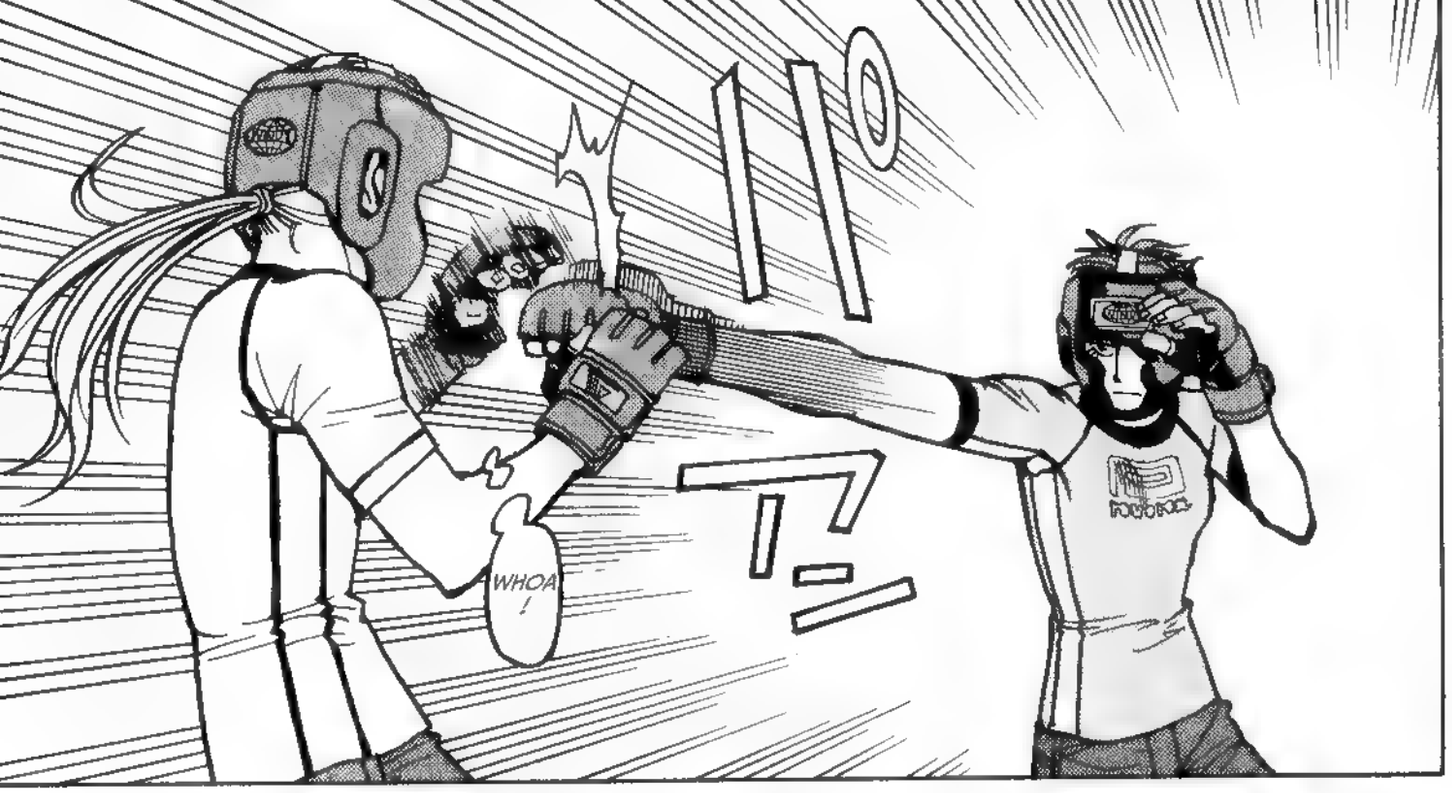

MAKI, YOU *HAVE TO* LEARN WRESTLING...
...IF YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO AVOID TAKEDOWNS AND WIN WITH A KICK.
I'LL BEAT HER BEFORE SHE EVER TOUCHES ME.

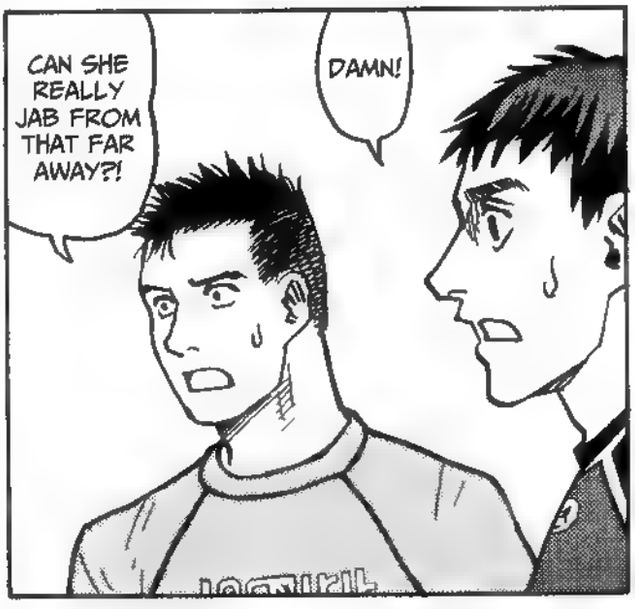
SUIT UP AND GET IN THE RING. I'M GONNA FIGHT YOU.
HUH?
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO *SHOW* YOU.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, MARIA?
AMATEUR *SHOOTO* RULES. FULL CONTACT SPARRING. ONE ROUND, 4 MINUTES.
OK,


WELL ENOUGH TO BEAT A BEGINNER, ANYWAY.
OF COURSE.
CAN YOU REALLY DO MIXED MARTIAL ARTS?

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA, FURUYA?
MARIA'LL BE FINE.
WINDY
BESIDES, SHE'S A LITTLE TOO FULL OF HERSELF BECAUSE SHE'S UNDEFEATED.
I WANT TO TAKE HER DOWN A PEG.
BEE-BEEP
OK, HERE WE GO!
molten

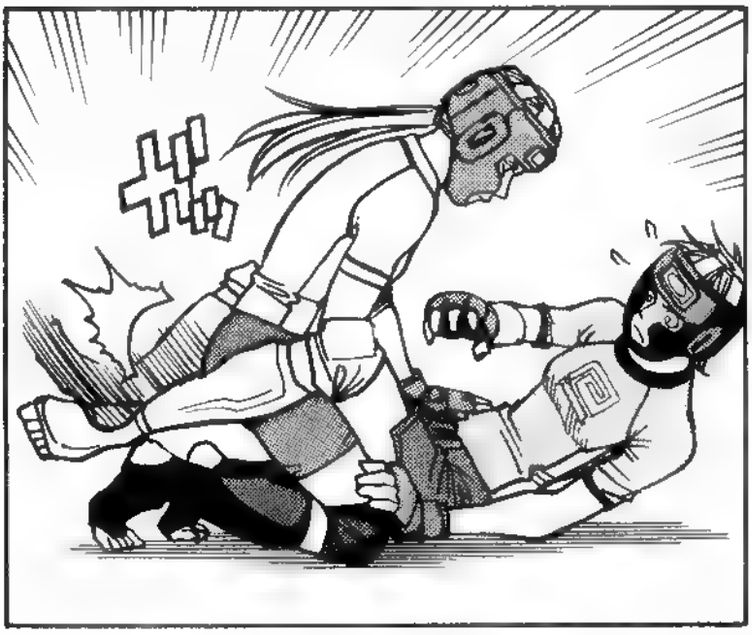

WHOA!


CAN SHE REALLY JAB FROM THAT FAR AWAY?!
DAMN!

SHE'S TALLER THAN MOST WOMEN AT 179 CM AND SHE'S GOT A GOOD STYLE.
IT'S NO WONDER SHE'S UNDE-FEATED ON THE AMATEUR CIRCUIT.
MARIA BACK-STEPPED, BUT MAKI'S LEFT MIDDLE STILL HIT HER!
SHE'S GOT A LONG REACH...
...SHE GOES INTO A RIGHT JAB, THEN A LEFT MIDDLE.
FROM A SOUTHPAW POSE...
THEN A FRONT KICK.
WINDY
BET YOU'LL DO A FRONT KICK NEXT TIME I PAUSE.
BUT YOUR RHYTHM'S A BIT MONOTONOUS.
ヒュ!

!
WSHH
ぱしん
BUT...
SHE PARRIED THE FRONT KICK AND GOT IN!
MARIA'S GOOD!
ガッ
GRAB

AFTER THE NEXT PUNCH...
...SHE'S GONNA GO IN FOR A CLINCH AND KNEE MARIA TO KEEP HER ON THE DEFENSIVE.
THAT'S MUAY THAI FOR YOU.
KAMIYA USUALLY WINS WITH THAT, BUT...
THIS IS SHOOTO...
WAH!
!



THIS IS WHAT'LL HAPPEN...
SHE'S DOWN!

SNAP
!
OW OW OW!
grind grind

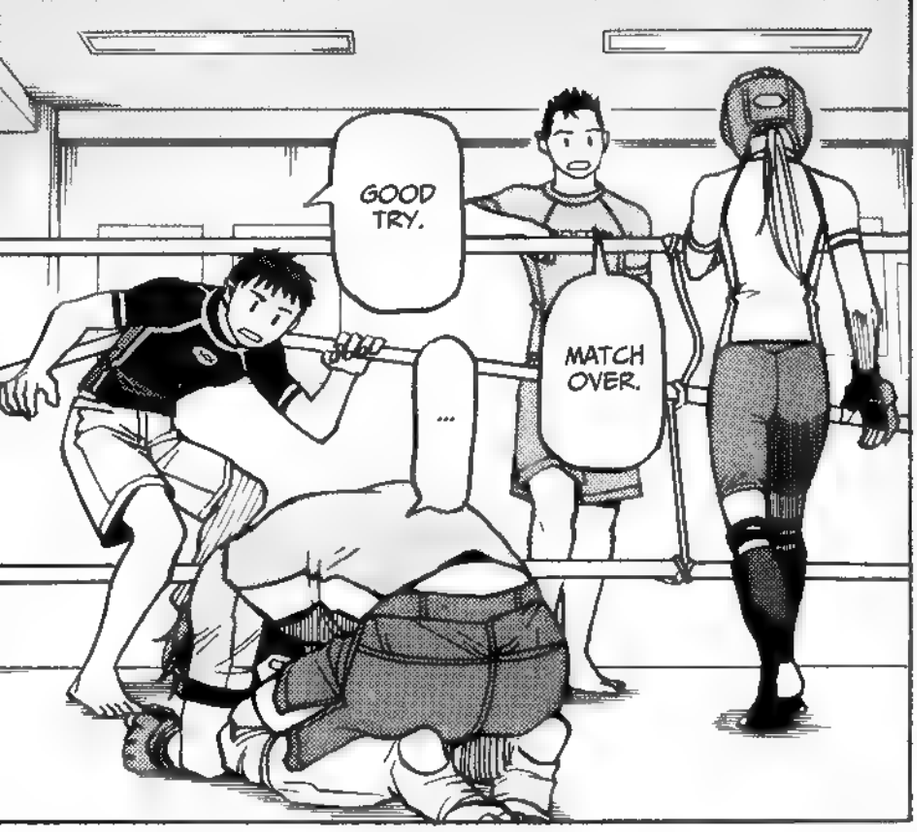
BUT...
RUB

WELL, SHE KNOWS HOW TO DO A CLOSED GUARD, ANYWAY.

WAH!
LET GO OF ME!
HOP
SO MARIA...
MARIA PASSED HER GUARD INTO SIDE CONTROL!
...CAN DO GROUND GRAPPLING AFTER ALL...

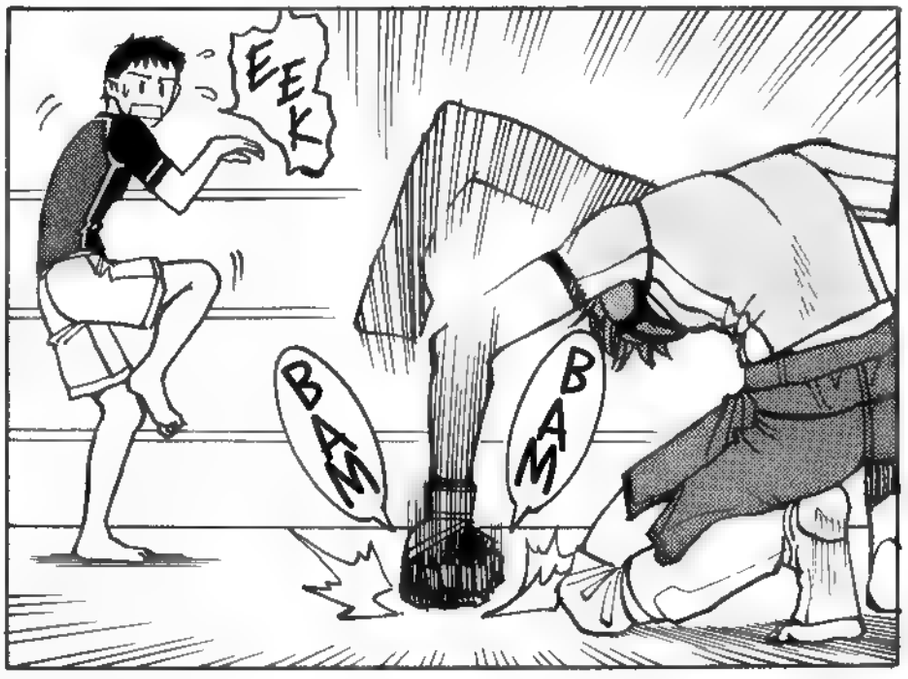
KEEP YOUR ARM IN CLOSE, MAKI!
HERE COMES AN ARM-LOCK!
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?
!
GRAB
AH!
トン
FLIP
THANKS FOR NOTHING!
Heh heh
THE ARMLOCK WAS A FEINT. SHE WAS GOING FOR A MOUNT...
IDIOT!
OH, SORRY, MAKI.

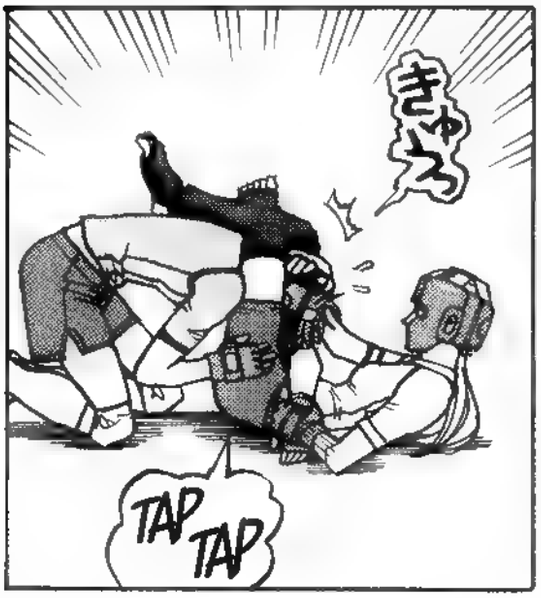
OH!
DON'T TRY AND ROLL AWAY!
HERE COMES AN ARM-BAR! GUARD YOUR ARMS!
NO, DON'T STRETCH OUT!
GET YOUR CHIN UP!
OH, SHE GOT YOU IN AN RNC.
YOU'D BETTER TAP, MAKI!

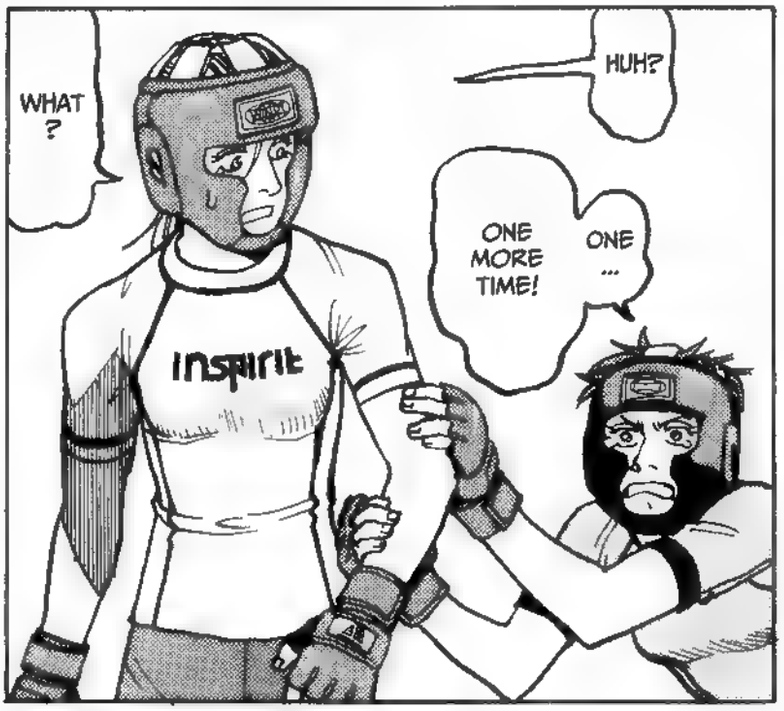

GOOD TRY.
...
MATCH OVER.

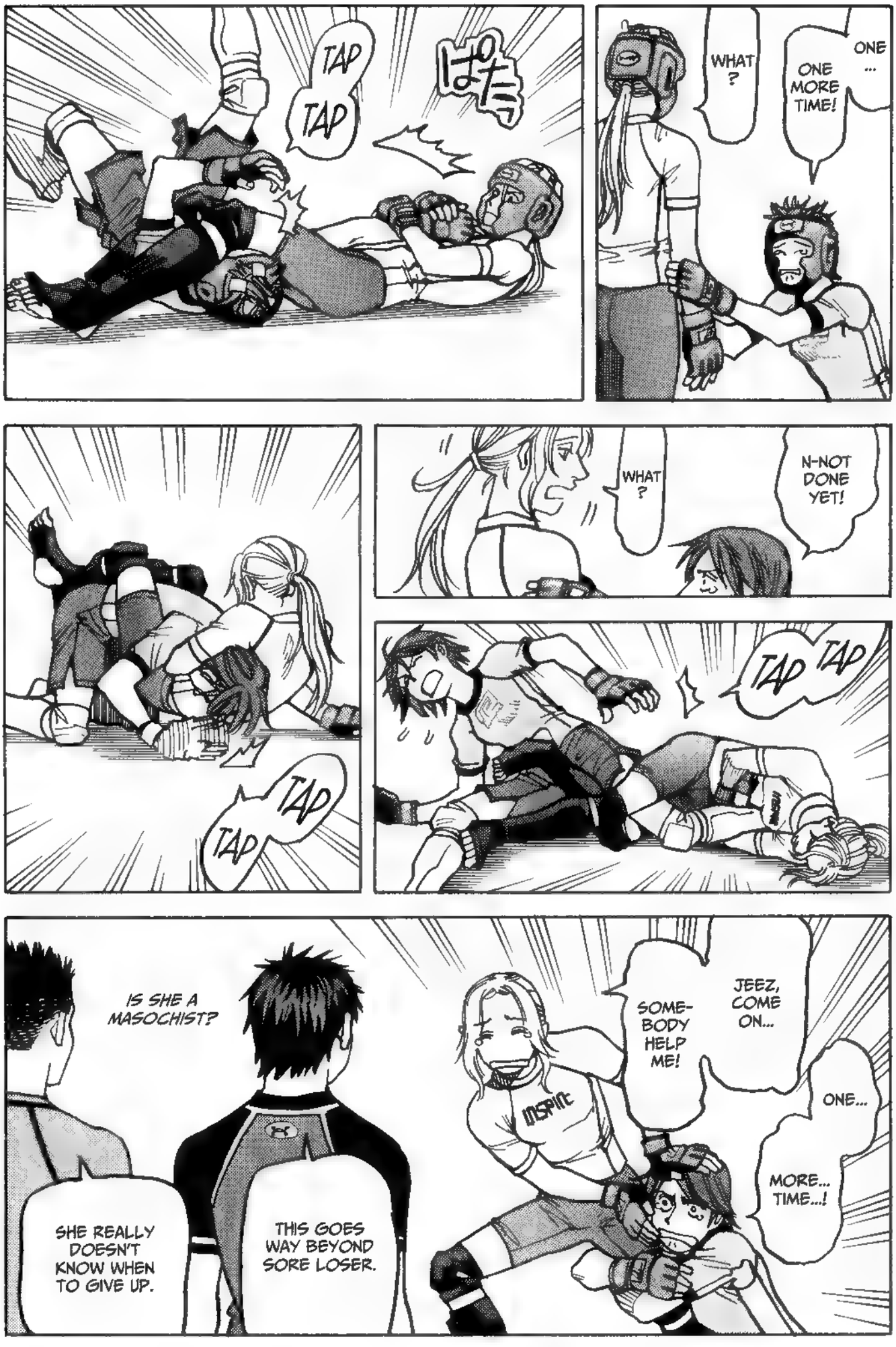
TAP TAP

ゲッ

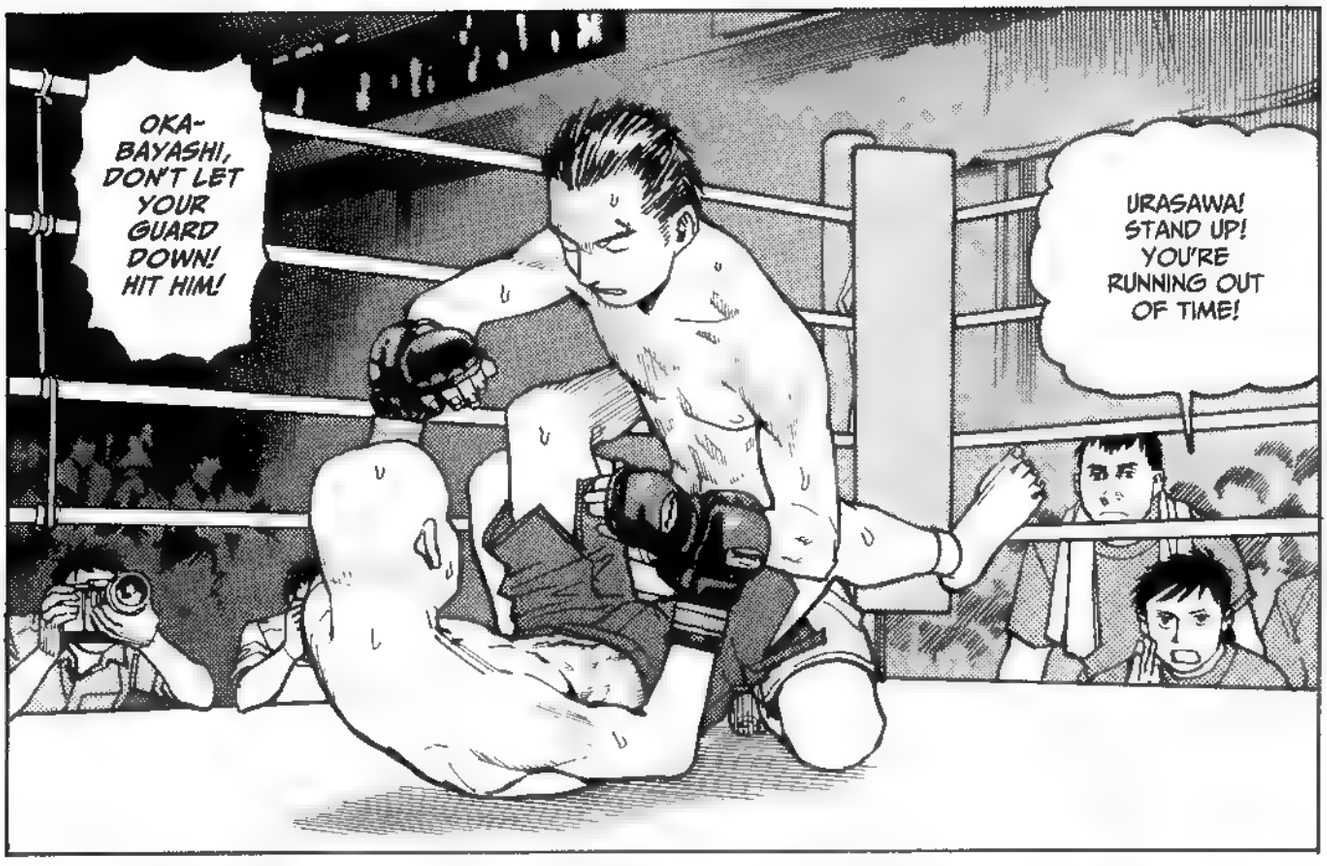

EEK
BAM
BAM


きゅう
TAP TAP

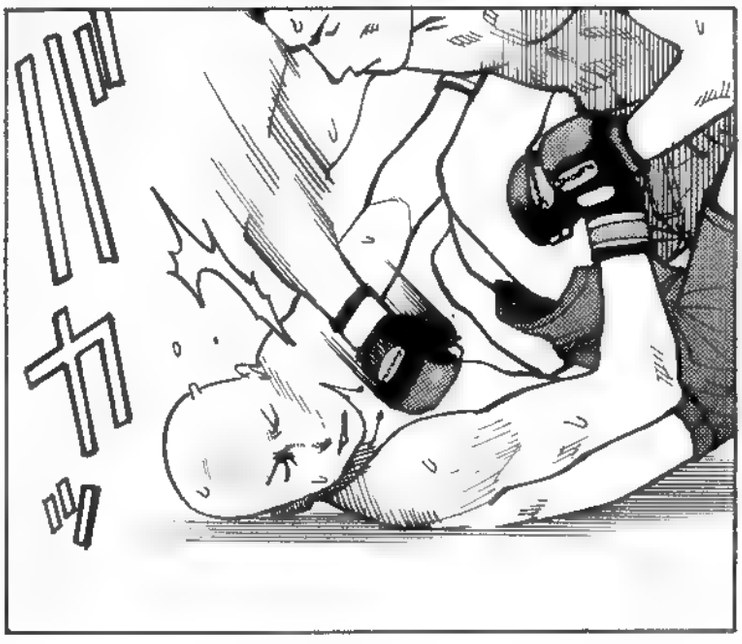

WHAT?
HUH?
ONE MORE TIME!
ONE...
Inspirit


TAP
TAP
ばた
WHAT ?
ONE MORE TIME!
ONE ...
WHAT ?
N-NOT DONE YET!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
IS SHE A MASOCHIST?
SHE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.
THIS GOES WAY BEYOND SORE LOSER.
SOME-BODY HELP ME!
JEEZ, COME ON...
ONE...
MORE... TIME...!

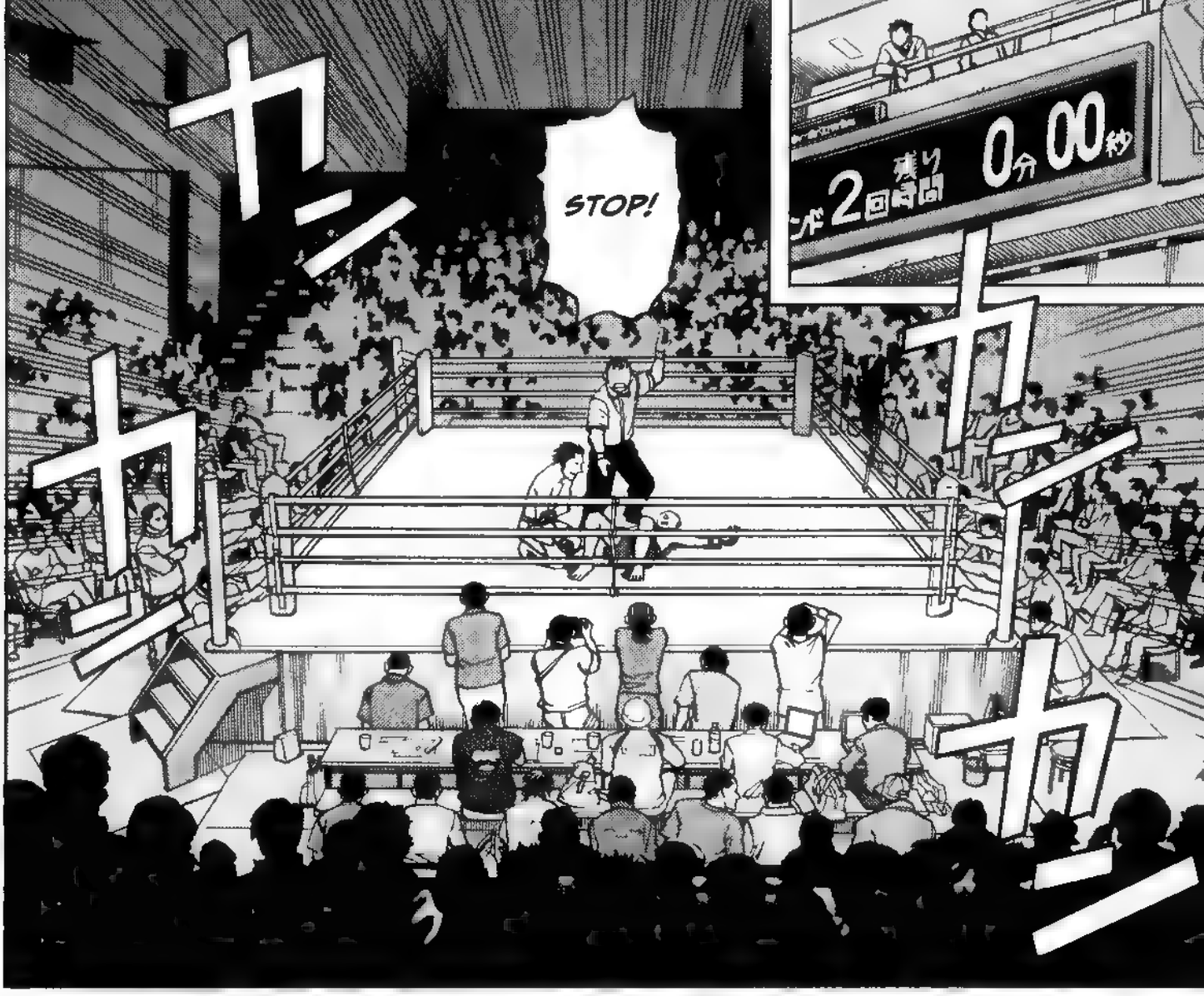
Chapter 14 | Korakuen*, Yakiniku**, Taxi


OKA-BAYASHI, DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN! HIT HIM!
URASAWA! STAND UP! YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!

URA! MOVE! DON'T LET HIM PIN YOU!

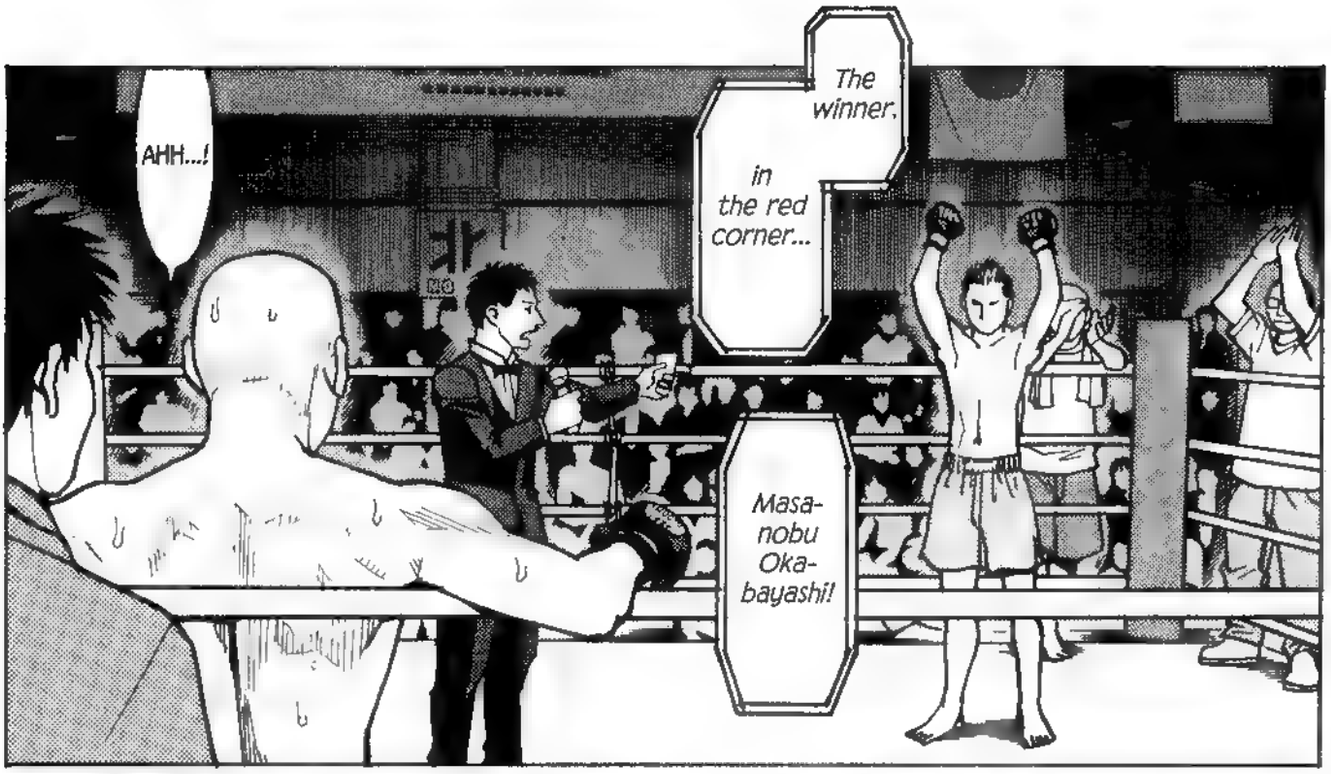


IF YOU LET HIM GET AWAY, IT'S ALL OVER!
FINISH HIM! NO SLACKING OFF!
URA! YOU'VE GOT A CATCH!
HE GOT A CATCH!
CATCH!

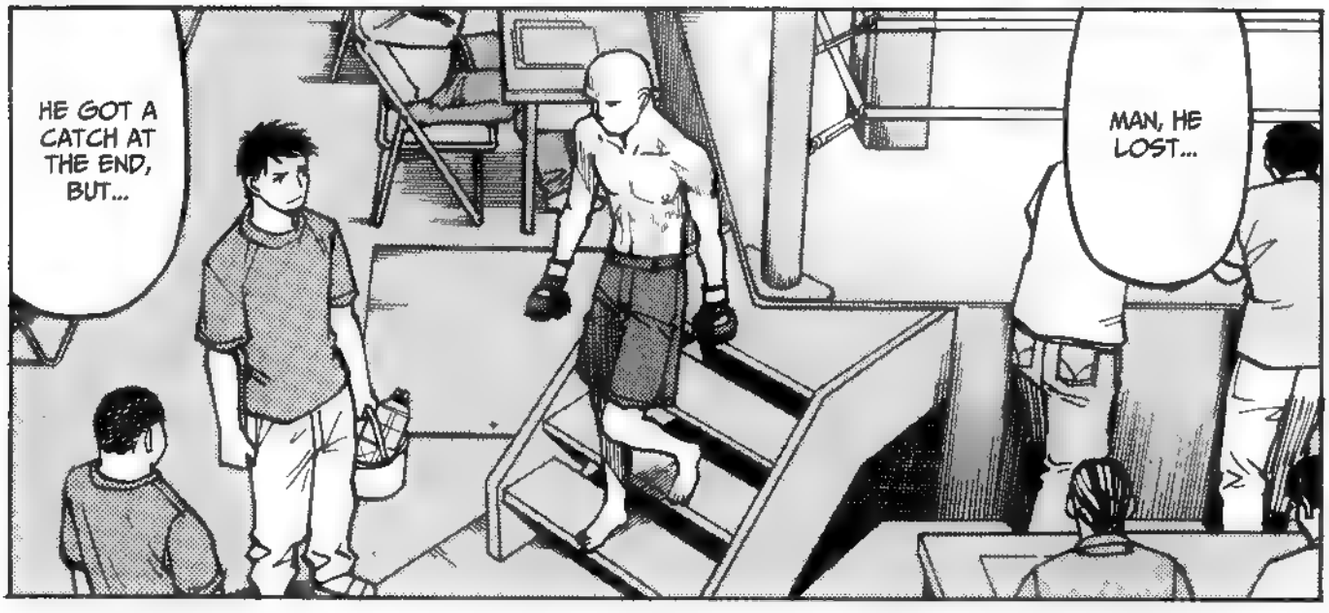

STOP!
0分00秒

YOU SHOULDN'TA LET HIM TAKE YOU DOWN.
I KEPT AT HIM, BUT THE BASTARD JUST WOULDN'T TAP!

After two rounds of action, we go to the judges' scorecard for a decision.
Match over!
DAMN IT!


AHH...!
The winner,
in the red corner...
Masa-nobu Oka-bayashi!

THANK YOU...
THANK YOU!
I will now read the scores.
Judge Kanno, 19 to 18...


HE GOT A CATCH AT THE END, BUT...
MAN, HE LOST...

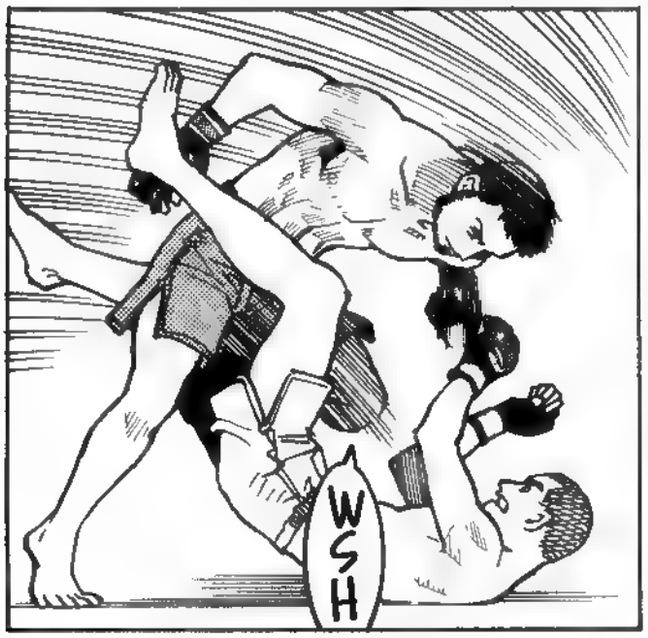
*BEING PUNCHED WHILE YOU'RE ON THE GROUND

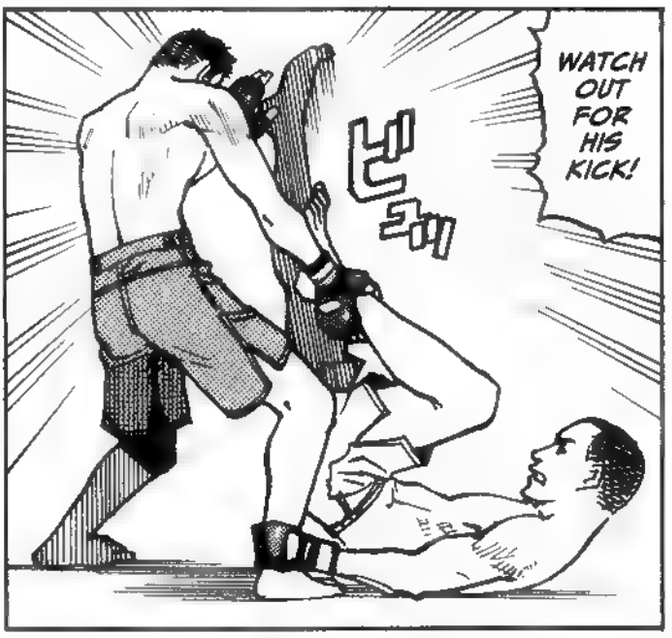
BOTH OF THEM WERE REALLY STRUGGLING TO LOSE WEIGHT...
YOU THINK HE'LL BE OK?
GOTTA LOSE 800 G THIS WEEK... THERE'S ONLY WATER WEIGHT LEFT.
mmbl
mmbl
mmbl
Welter-weight bout. 3 rounds of 5 minutes!
And now the semi-final...
OH, IT'S FURUYA'S TURN.
SHOOTO

FURU-YAAA!
オオウ
... Kenichiro Furuya!
Fighting out of the red corner...
SOBAH
BOSS!
どど
LOOKS LIKE SOME PEOPLE FROM HIS WORK CAME AS WELL.
KEN-ICHIRO!
GIVE 'IM HELL!
FIGHTERS BREW

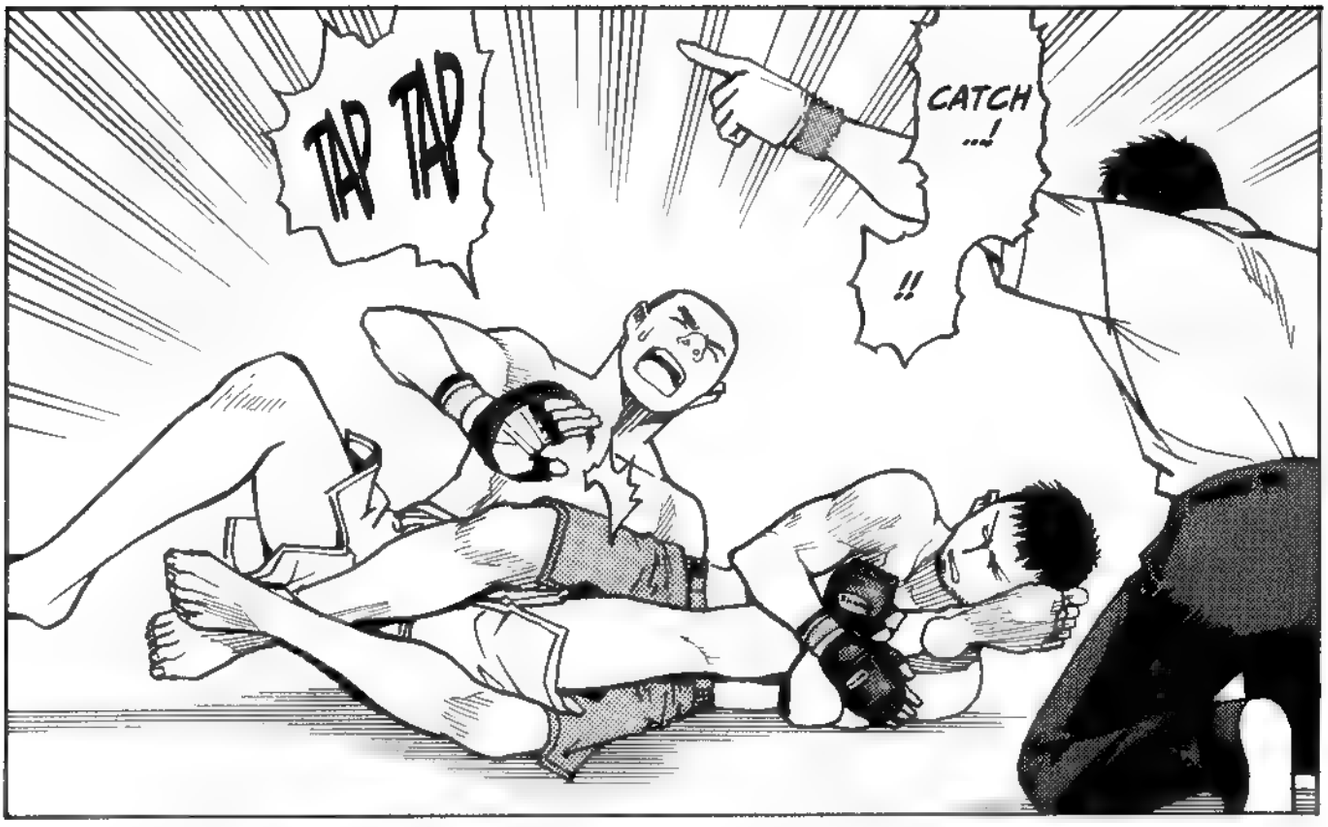
*SMALL PIECES OF OCTOPUS COOKED IN A BALL OF PANCAKE MIXTURE
FIGHT!
THAT'S MY TAKOYAKI*, MAKI!
HEY!
HE'S LAST YEAR'S BEST NEWCOMER, JUST RECENTLY GRADUATED TO CLASS A...
WHAT'S HIS OPPONENT LIKE?
FTC
パカッ
オオ
HE COUN-TERED?!
A STRAIGHT RIGHT?!
WHAT?
I WANTED TO SEE THAT!
HUH?!

THE FIGHT'S JUST GETTING STARTED!
JUST KEEP AT HIM.
TAKE IT EASY, KEN-ICHIRO.


WSH


ビュッ
WATCH OUT FOR HIS KICK!

ぐるんっ
!


TAP TAP
CATCH ...!
!!

...declaring the winner by Tapout due to a kneebar... Kenichiro Furuya!
The referee has called a stop to this contest at 21 seconds of the very first round...
WHOA!
HE FINISHED HIM INSTANTLY WITH A LEGLOCK !

And the winner is...
STOP !
...Kenichiro Furuya !

He's so cool.
Wow.
I'd have to win the national amateur championship...
It feels like he's so far away...
...then fight for the best newcomer title and rise to Class A.
...become a pro and start at Class B...

MEAT, DO WANT!
COUNT ME IN.
WE'RE GOING OUT FOR YAKINIKU TO CELEBRATE AND CONSOLE URASAWA.
But...
Do I even want to become a pro...?
TOKYO
I CALLED HOME ALREADY.
MARIA'LL GIVE ME A RIDE.
D'YOU HAVE A CURFEW, MAKI?
ALL I NEED IS MEAT.
SO NO ALCOHOL.
YOU TWO ARE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
牛丼
牛銀

SIGN: GYUGIN

AHEM... TODAY FURUYA GOT A WIN BY SUBMISSION.
NOW THE PACIFIC RIM CHAMPIONSHIP IS WITHIN OUR SIGHTS.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO ALL OF YOU HERE...
AND THOUGH URASAWA LOST TODAY...
...I HAVE GREAT HOPES THAT HE WILL DILIGENTLY TRAIN FOR THE NEXT MATCH AND NOT LET THIS STAND IN HIS WAY.
...
I HOPE ALL OF YOU GATHERED HERE TODAY...
...WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE BOTH OF THEM YOUR ENCOURAGE-MENT AND SUPPORT.
CHEERS!

THIS IS PERFECT.
AHH...
He got beat up pretty badly, so no alcohol for him.
...
I LOVE THIS FEELING!
...AND SINCE I DIDN'T TAKE ANY DAMAGE, I CAN DRINK AS MUCH AS I WANT.
AFTER WORKING SO HARD TO LOSE WEIGHT, I WON THE MATCH...
Oh, you're too kind
Thank you for putting up with Kenchira
Furuya's wife
...
NOTHING I SAY'S GONNA HELP...
I WANT TO WIN, DAMMIT...
I'M SICK OF HEARING "IT WAS A GOOD FIGHT"...
Hmph
COME ON, URA.
EVEN IF YOU LOST, IT WAS STILL A GOOD FIGHT.
AND THEN IF I HADN'T DONE THAT IN ROUND TWO...
IF ONLY I'D DONE THAT IN ROUND ONE...
MMPL
MMPL
Oolong tea

BUT YOUR DIETING DIDN'T GO WELL, SO I GUESS I'M NOT SURPRISED.
IF ONLY YOU'D HAD A BIT MORE STAMINA, YOU COULD'VE CLINCH THE MATCH WITH THAT LAST ARMBAR.
THAT GUY WAS JUST TOO TOUGH FOR YOU.
SHE'S MERCILESS WHEN SHE'S DRUNK.
WOW,
glug glug glug
BOTTLE: OOLONG TEA, FUJIAN, CHINA.
!
URAAA!
hic
IF YOU KEEP EATING MEAT LIKE THAT...
HEH
MAKI!
GASP
IF IT'S THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU, WHY DON'T YOU WRITE YOUR NAME ON IT!
Hmph!
HEY, KAMIYA, THAT'S MY MEAT!
twist
UNLIKE YOU, I'M YOUNG, SO I HAVE A HIGH METABOLISM!
grrrr
OH, REALLY?
EEEEEE
AIE
...YOU'LL BE OVER THE WEIGHT LIMIT!
rub rub rub
rub rub rub

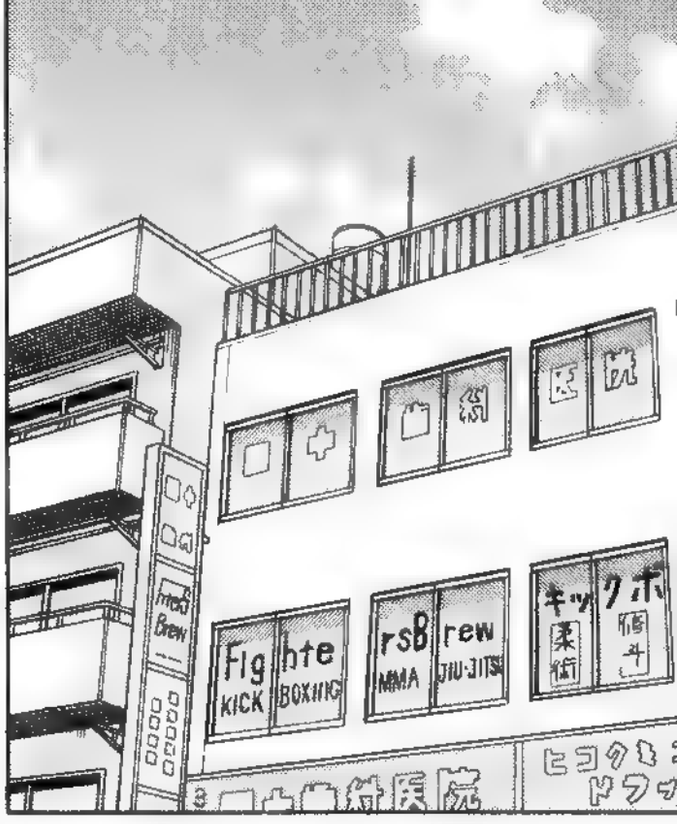
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING...?!
OH, WAS THAT YOUR NIPPLE...
...UNDER YOUR UNPADDED SPORTS BRA?
That's sexual harassment
Totally sexual harass-ment
NGAH
POKE
IS YOUR METABOLISM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LACK OF GROWTH HERE, TOO?
Hmph!
I'M NOT A C,
I'M A D.
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!
YOU CAN'T TALK! YOU'RE ONLY A C CUP YOURSELF!
MARIA'S DEFENSE IS PRETTY GOOD EVEN WHEN SHE'S DRUNK.
HER OFFENSE KINDA SUCKS, THOUGH.
WHY YOU!
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
GRR!

MEGURU, YOU LIVE WEST OF HERE, RIGHT?
WANT TO GET A CAB TOGETHER ?
OH, SURE
THANKS
AIEEE
Counter
POKE

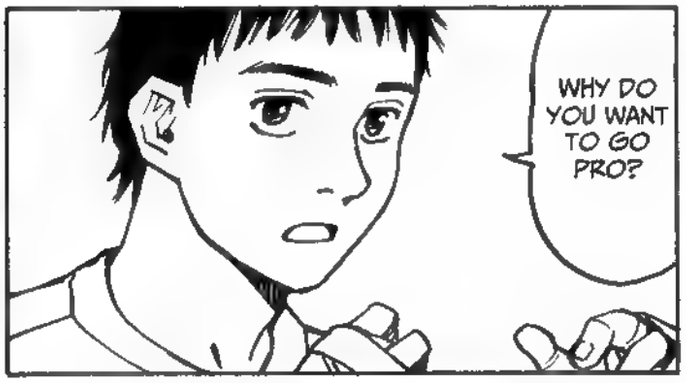
DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A PRO?
YEAH?
MEGURU ...
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE TAKEN THE TRAIN AFTER ALL...
THIS IS AWK-WARD.
I WISH I COULD JUST STAY HOME AND RECOVER, BUT...
I'VE GOT WORK MONDAY...
UH, WELL...
MY FAMILY INSISTS I NEED TO GO TO COLLEGE...
YOU SHOULD GO IF YOU CAN.
IT'S HARD TO MAKE A LIVING OFF FIGHTING.
SAY...
WHY'D YOU DECIDE TO GO PRO?
WELL,
'CAUSE IT'S FUN.

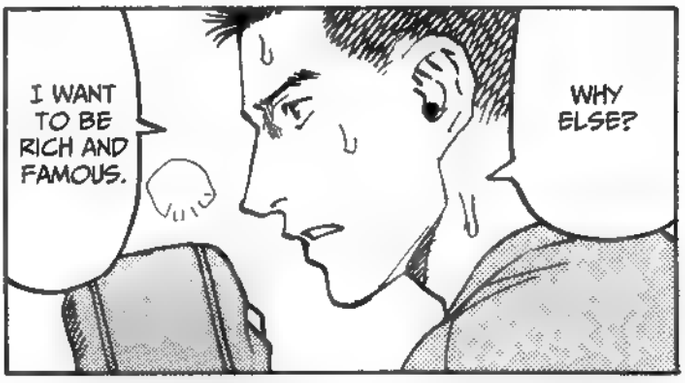
IF YOU'RE IN IT FOR THE MONEY, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG BUSINESS!
AND THERE'S THE NON-STOP PRACTICE AND DIETING ...
OF COURSE.
EVEN WHEN YOU LOSE?
IT'S LIKE AN ACTOR GETTING ON STAGE...
ONCE I'M IN THE RING AND THE LIGHTS ARE ON ME...
BUT WHETHER I WIN OR LOSE, I ALWAYS THINK "I WANT TO DO THIS AGAIN."
...
AS LONG AS THEY'RE STILL AT IT...
...I CAN'T QUIT.
AND I'VE GOT MY FRIENDS.

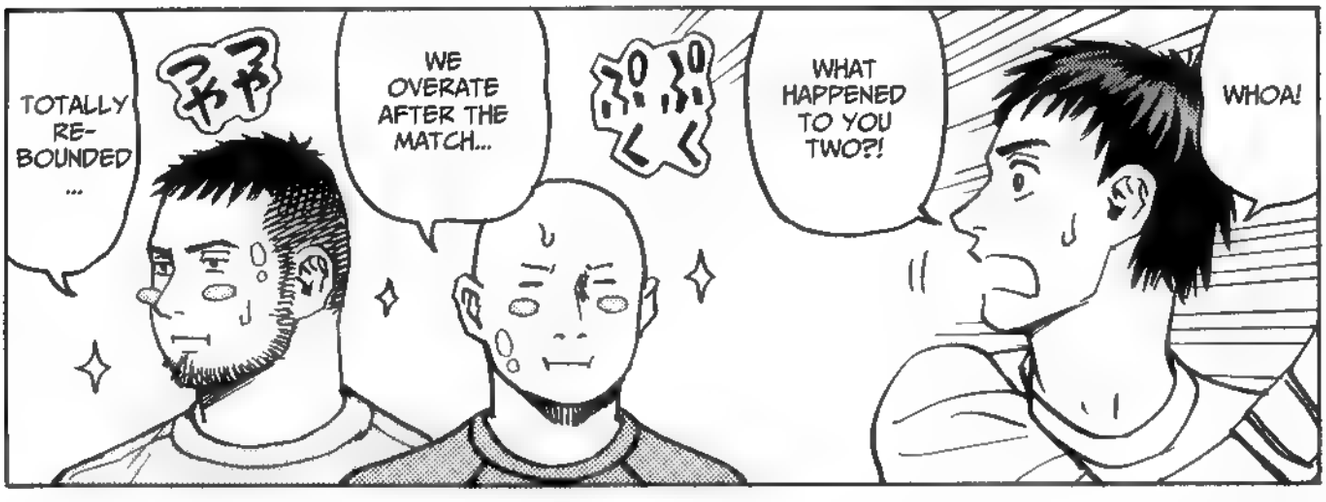
HEY, YUDAI...
WHAT?


KICK BOXING
MMA
JIU-JITSU

...


WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO PRO?


I WANT TO BE RICH AND FAMOUS.
WHY ELSE?


TOTALLY RE-BOUNDED...
WE OVERATE AFTER THE MATCH...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU TWO?!
WHOA!

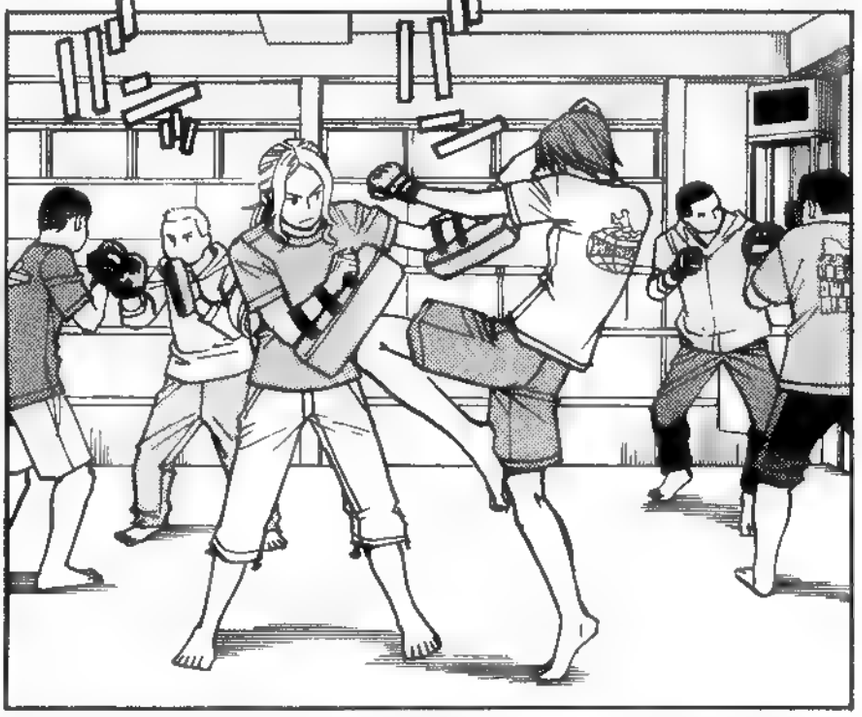
Chapter 15 | Omiya, Meguru, Grappling Match

*HERE A PERSON WHO ENTERED THE GYM AFTER ONE; A JUNIOR FELLOW STUDENT

YOU KNOW HIM, TAMIYA?
See ya!
SORTA ...
WE WENT TO THE SAME GYM WHEN I WAS STILL PRACTICING JIU-JITSU ONLY.
WOW.
SO YOU KNOW HIS FIGHTING STYLE AND STUFF?
YOU COULD SAY THAT...
HE'S THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION OF A SLICK SUBMISSION FIGHTER. EXACTLY THE TYPE I HATE.
YOU'VE NEVER BEATEN HIM AT JIU-JITSU, HAVE YOU?
HE NEVER MANAGED TO SUBMIT ME!
IT WAS ALL DOWN TO POINTS.
HE KINDA RUBS ME THE WRONG WAY, TOO...
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE GUY.
... THAT'S WHY.

YOU'VE ALREADY LOST JUST BY ADMITTING THAT.
WE'RE THE SAME TYPE.

チラッ



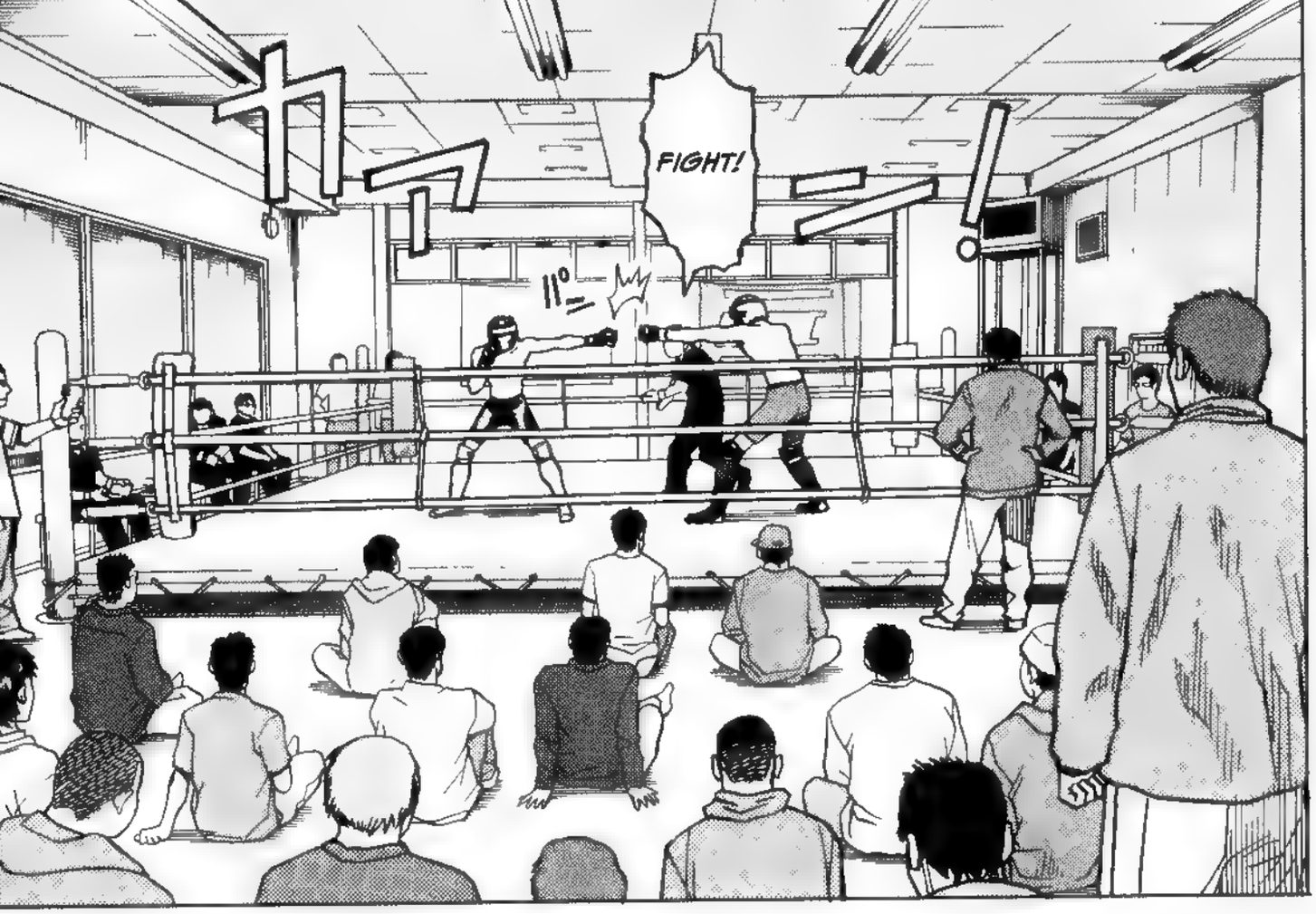
LUTADOR
FIGHT CO
WINDY

IS THAT MY OPPONENT...?
Concentrate, Maki!
!
...

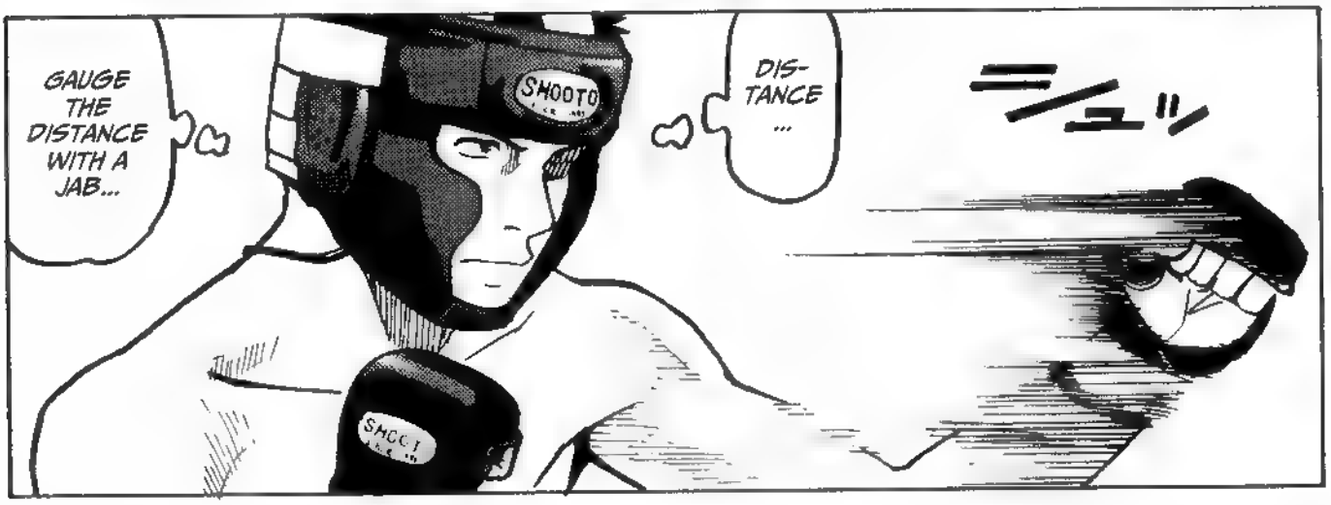
MATCH 8, LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION, 2 ROUNDS!
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW... YUDAI KITAMURA!

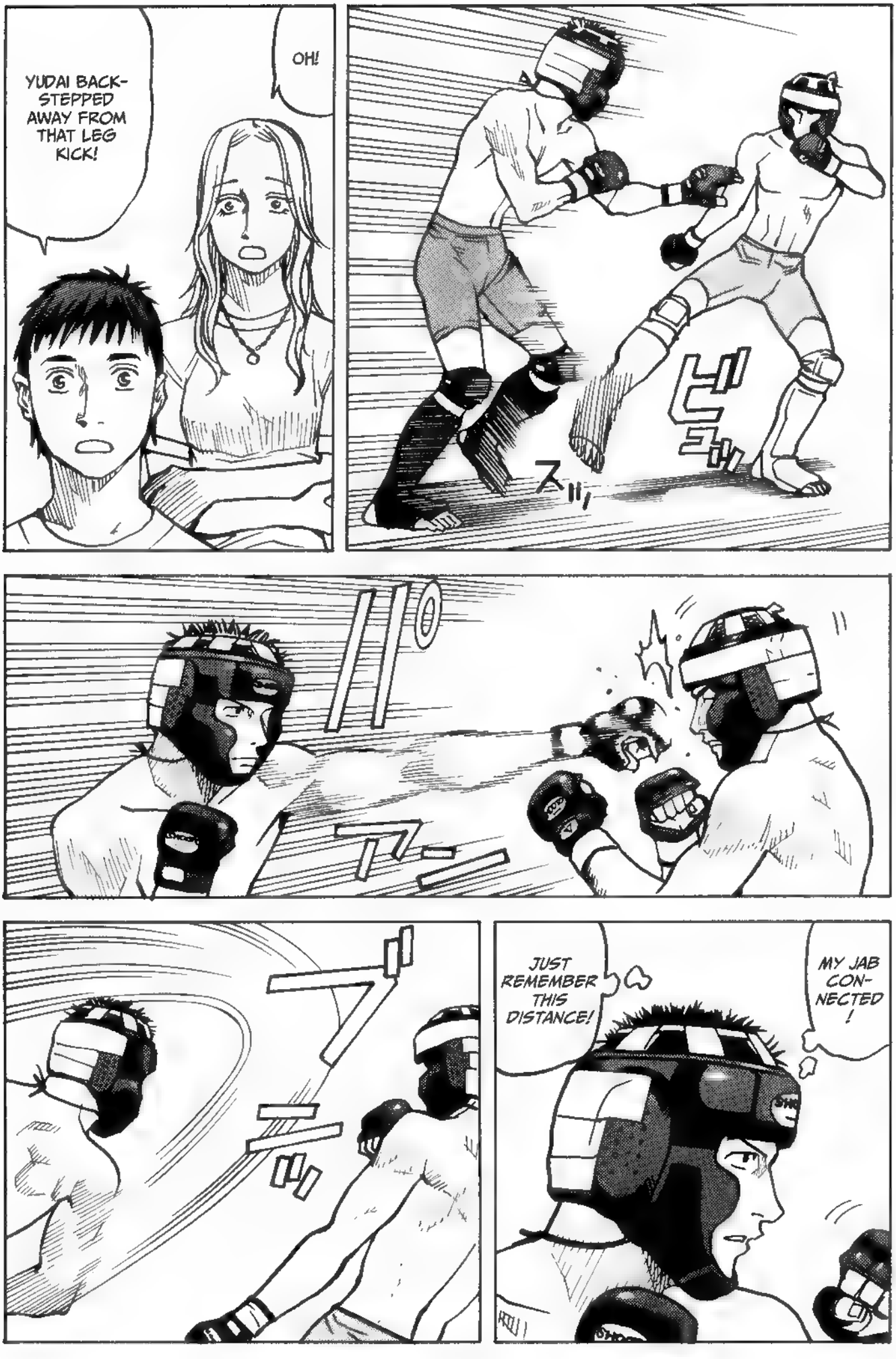
HE'S GONNA BE ON GUARD AGAINST THROWS AND TAKE-DOWNS.
THAT'S WHAT I WANT.
I HAVEN'T BEEN PRACTICING PUNCHES AND KICKS FOR NOTHING!

...KUNIO OTANI!
AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM SGA...
IF YOU TRY TO TAKE HIM DOWN TOO SOON, HE'LL THROW YOU OFF.
OK.
OK.
TAKE THE LEAD WITH A PUNCH.

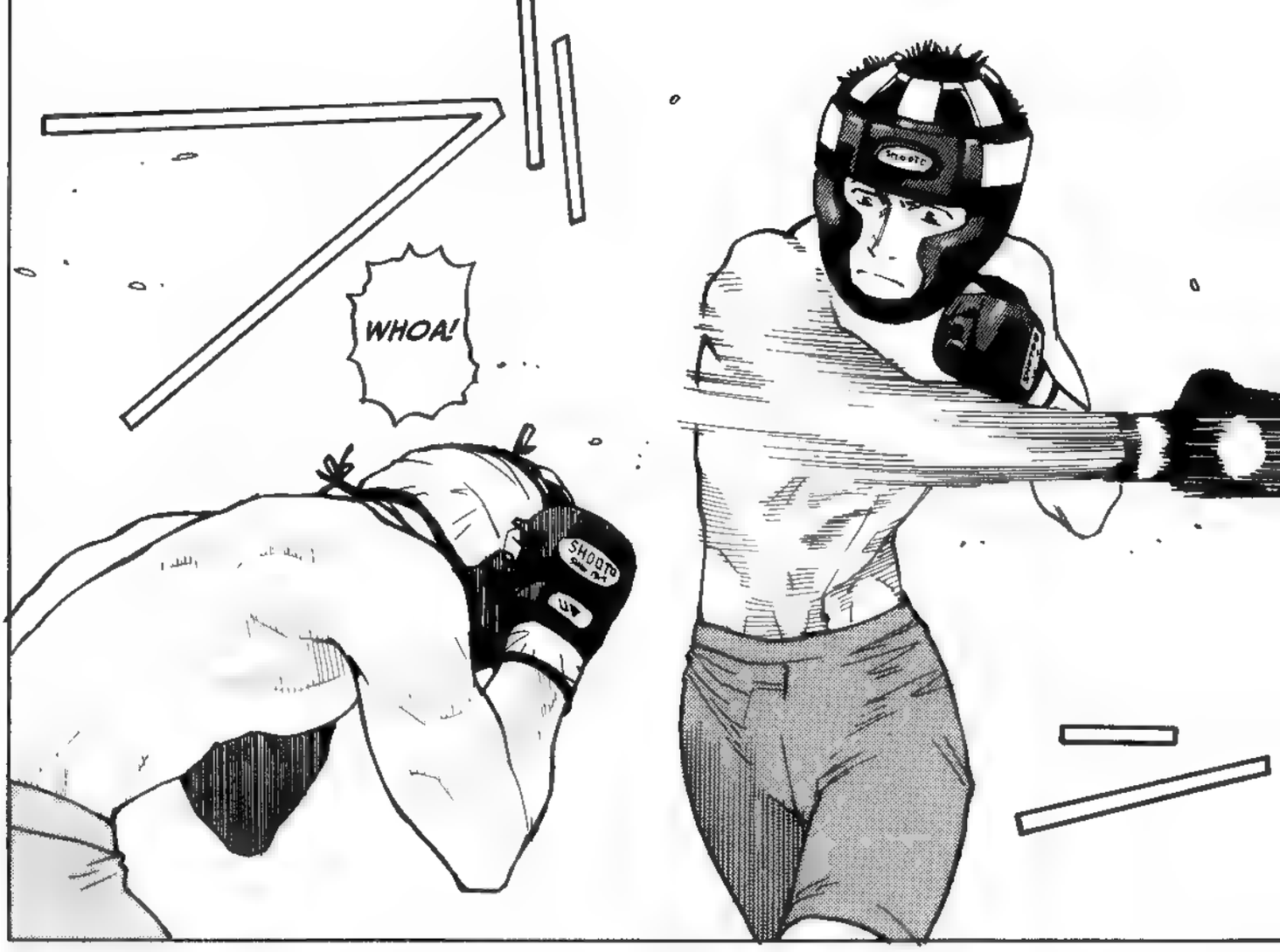

FIGHT!

YUDAI, DON'T COME AT HIM HEAD ON!

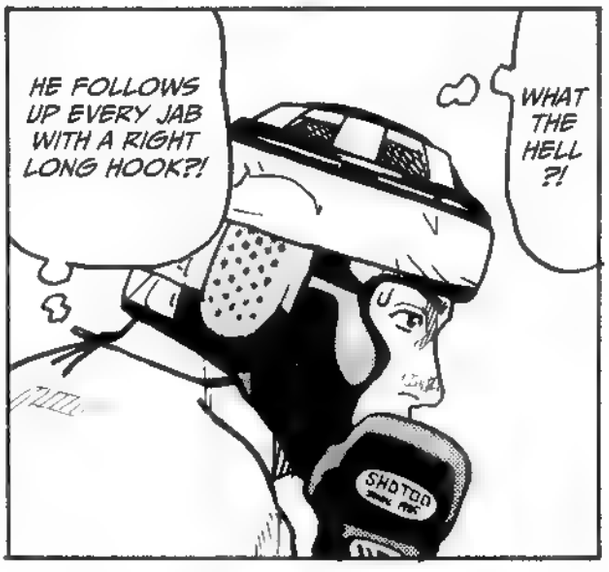

GAUGE THE DISTANCE WITH A JAB...
DIS-TANCE ...
SHOOTO


YUDAI BACK-STEPPED AWAY FROM THAT LEG KICK!
OH!
ビュッ
ズッ
JUST REMEMBER THIS DISTANCE!
MY JAB CON-NECTED!

SHOOTO
SHOOTO
...
YOU'RE SWINGING TOO WIDE, YUDAI!
HE'S DODGING EVERY-THING!
SON OF A BITCH!
ビ!!
ュッ!!
ドゴッ!!
ガッ!!


WHOA!

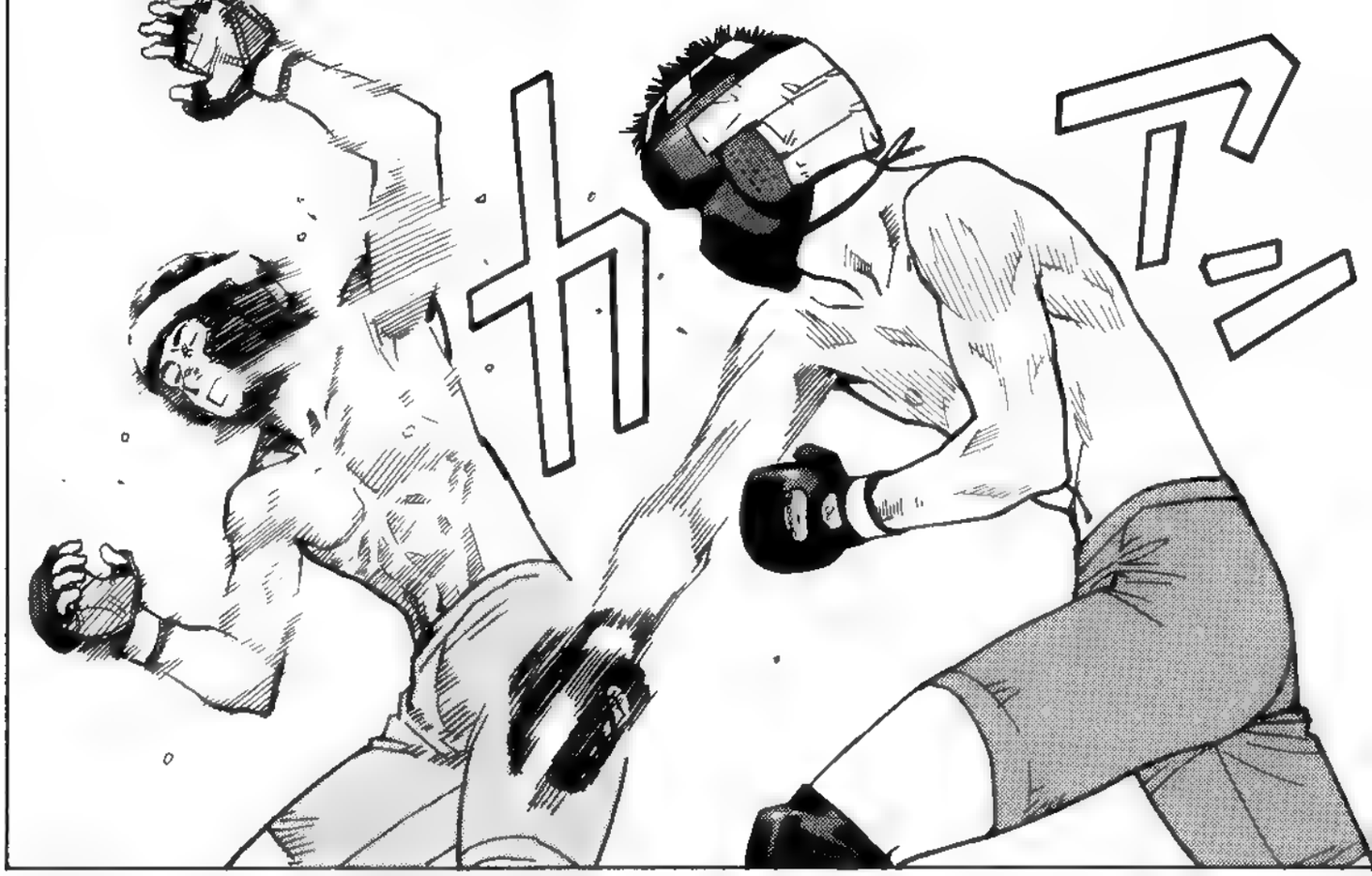
HIS SWING'S SO WIDE, IT'LL BE EASY TO SEE THE PUNCH COMING!
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO COUNTER.

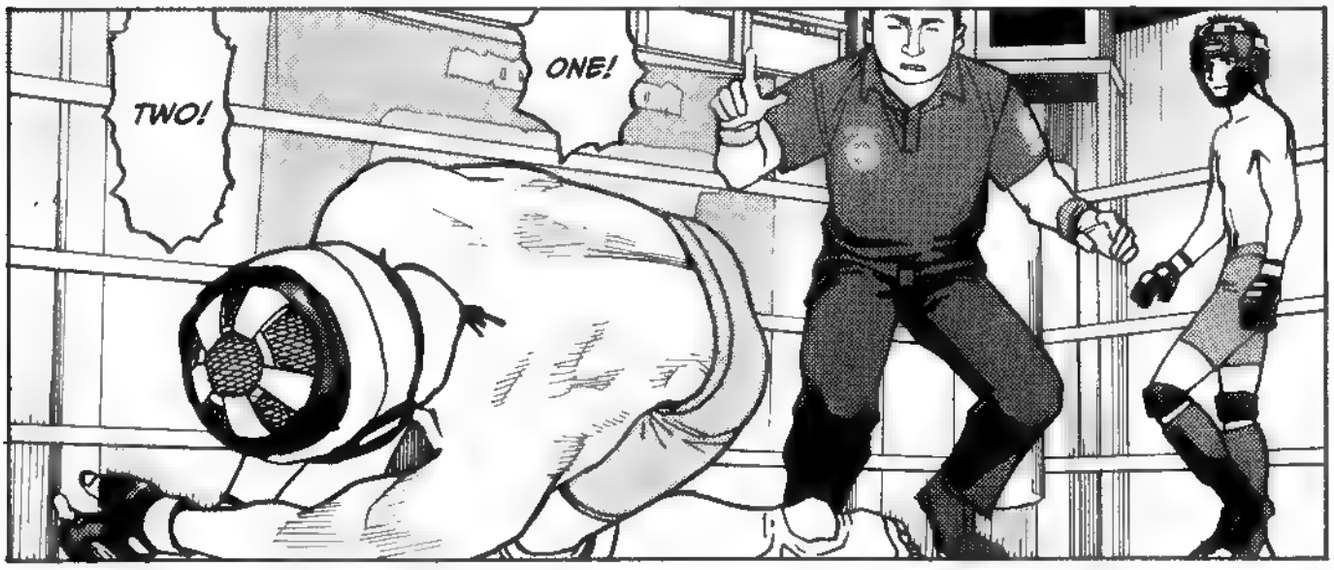

HE FOLLOWS UP EVERY JAB WITH A RIGHT LONG HOOK?!
WHAT THE HELL ?!

LET'S JUST WATCH AND SEE.
HE MUST HAVE SOME-THING IN MIND.
KNOWING HIM,

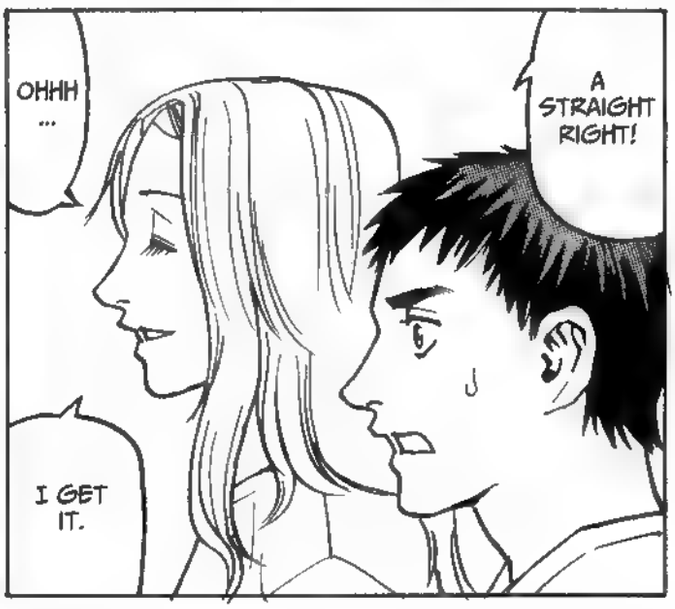
YUDAI! YOU DON'T NEED THAT BIG A SWING!
WAIT!

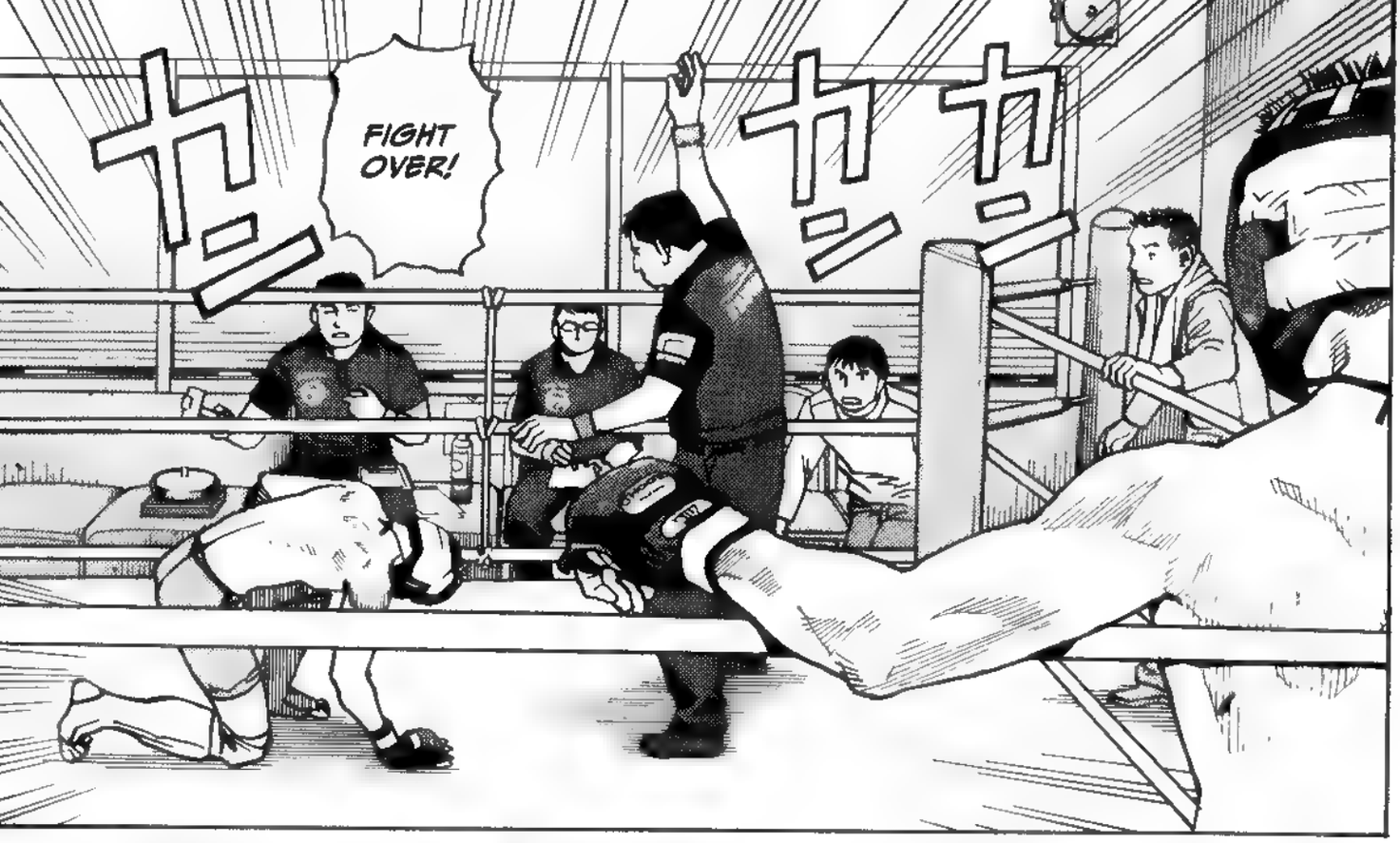
FLINCH
DIS-
TANCE...
DIS-
TANCE.
!
!!


カーン

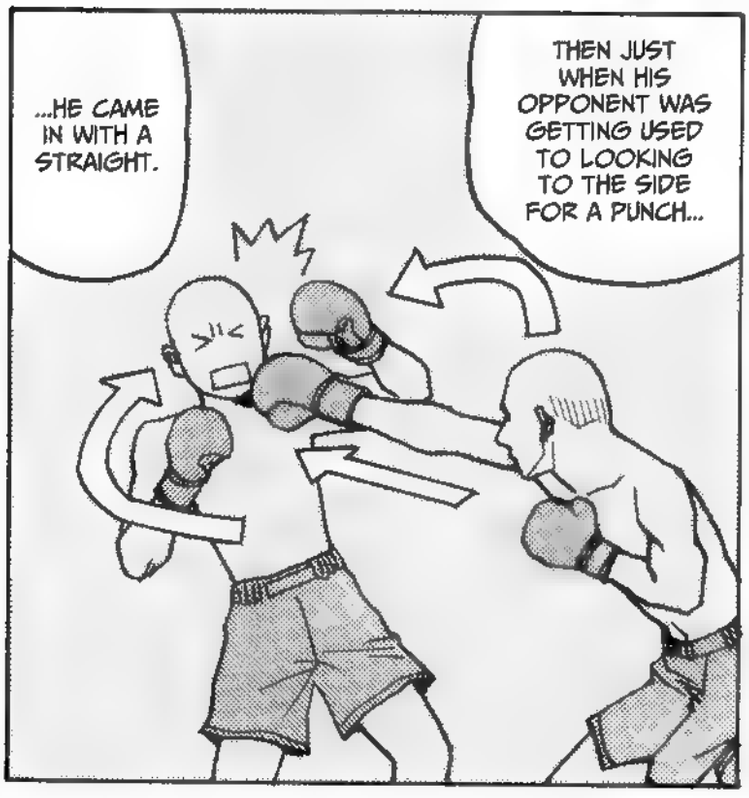

ONE!
TWO!

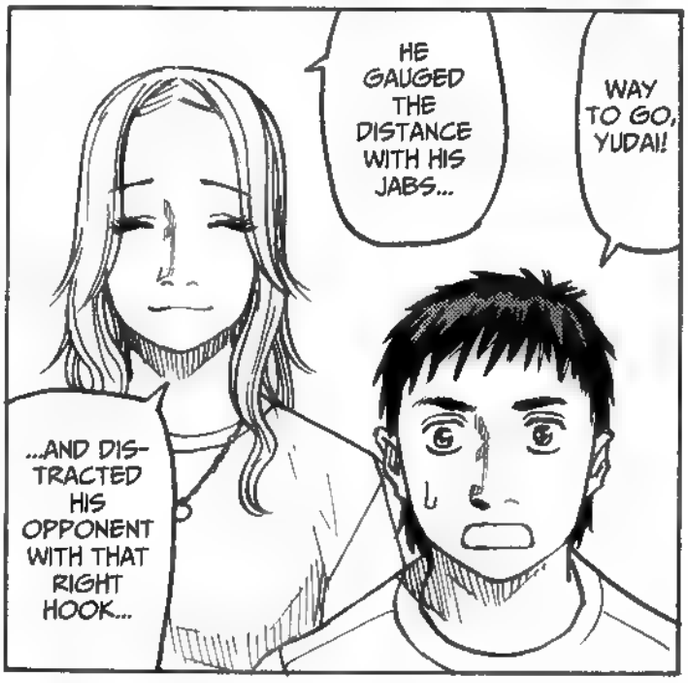
WOBBLE
!

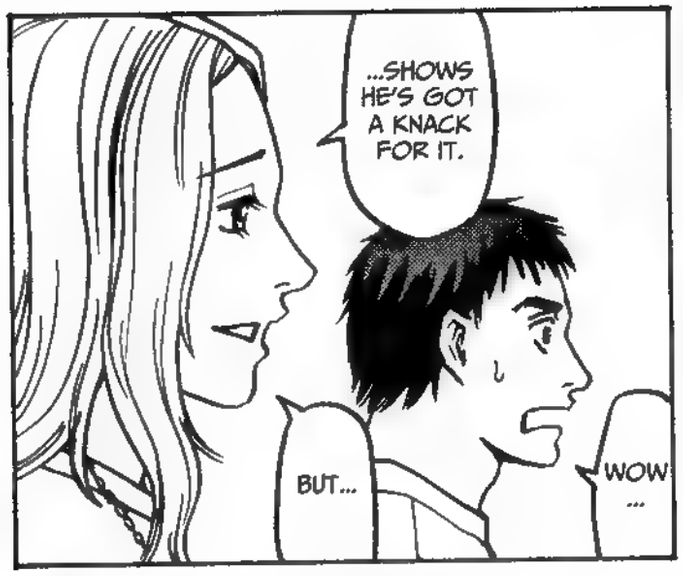

A STRAIGHT RIGHT!
OHHH ...
I GET IT.

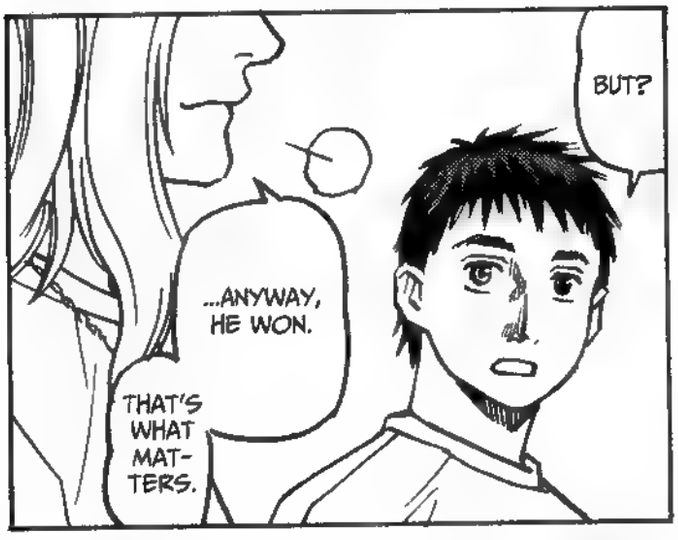

FIGHT OVER!

SHOOTO
OF COURSE!
...IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE GOING FOR?


...HE CAME IN WITH A STRAIGHT.
THEN JUST WHEN HIS OPPONENT WAS GETTING USED TO LOOKING TO THE SIDE FOR A PUNCH...


WAY TO GO, YUDAI!
HE GAUGED THE DISTANCE WITH HIS JABS...
...AND DISTRACTED HIS OPPONENT WITH THAT RIGHT HOOK...


...SHOWS HE'S GOT A KNACK FOR IT.
BUT...
WOW...


BUT?
...ANYWAY, HE WON.
THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.

IT WASN'T A PERFECTLY-EXECUTED STRAIGHT...
...BUT THE FACT THAT HE WAS ABLE TO COME UP WITH THIS...
...AND PUT IT INTO PRACTICE IN A FIGHT...

TCH!
SELF-CONGRATULATORY BASTARD!
Damn right I do!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
HEYYY!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO FUCKING COOL, DON'T YOU?

...KIYOSHI OGASA-WARA!
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM ACCESS ACADEMY...
GRAPPLING RULES, LIGHTWEIGHT DIVISION, 2 ROUNDS...!
rvddw

IT MEANS STRIKES ARE OFF LIMITS.
WHAT ARE GRAP-PLING RULES?
MEGURU GOT KO'D LAST TIME...

...MEGURU TAKA-YANAGI!
AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW...
Fighters Brew

IF YOU GET KO'D IN KICK-BOXING, YOU CAN'T FIGHT AGAIN FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
BUT PURE GRAPPLING'S OK.
HUH.

HE'S GONNA COME RIGHT AT YOU AND TRY TO PULL YOU TO THE GROUND.
OK.
SO WATCH OUT FOR HIS GUARD.
YOU DON'T USUALLY LEARN THOSE IN MIXED MARTIAL ARTS...
OH...
RIGHT.
WHAT? ARE YOU *KIDDING* ME?
WHAT'S THE SPIRAL GUARD?
DE LA...?
HE'S GONNA GO FROM THE DE LA RIVA GUARD TO THE SPIRAL GUARD, SO...
BUT WHAT'S THIS DE LA WHATEVER?
HUH?
ANYWAY, JUST MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T PUT YOU IN HIS GUARD!
FIGHT!

UHHH ...
GUESS I'VE JUST GOTTA TRY...
ガッ
!
ダッ
WHA ?!

A HOOK SWEEP?!
GRIP
I GOT HIM DOWN THIS EASILY?
SERI-OUSLY?!
WAH!
GRIP
ガッ
ガッ

ハァハァ
ハァハァ
ハァハァ

Back.
Red.
HOW'D HE GET BEHIND ME?!
WHAAAA?
GET YOUR CHIN DOWN AND TURN AROUND!
HANG IN THERE, MEGURU!
HE REALLY FELL FOR THAT ONE.
JEEZ...
MMRG ...?!

Chapter 16 | Get Him!

JUST CALM DOWN AND TURN AROUND!
MEGURU! THE FIGHT JUST GOT STARTED!
KEEP YOUR FACE FORWARD!
HE'S GONNA TRANSITION FROM THE FACELOCK TO AN RNC!
IT WON'T EVEN BE FUNNY IF I LOSE ANOTHER MATCH THIS QUICKLY!
DAMN IT!

THEN ONE, TWO, THREE, TURN!
THAT'S IT, MEGURU! GET YOUR BACK ON THE MAT!
ぐぐっ
KIYOSHI! FOLLOW HIM!
ぐるんっっ!!
はっ
UGH!

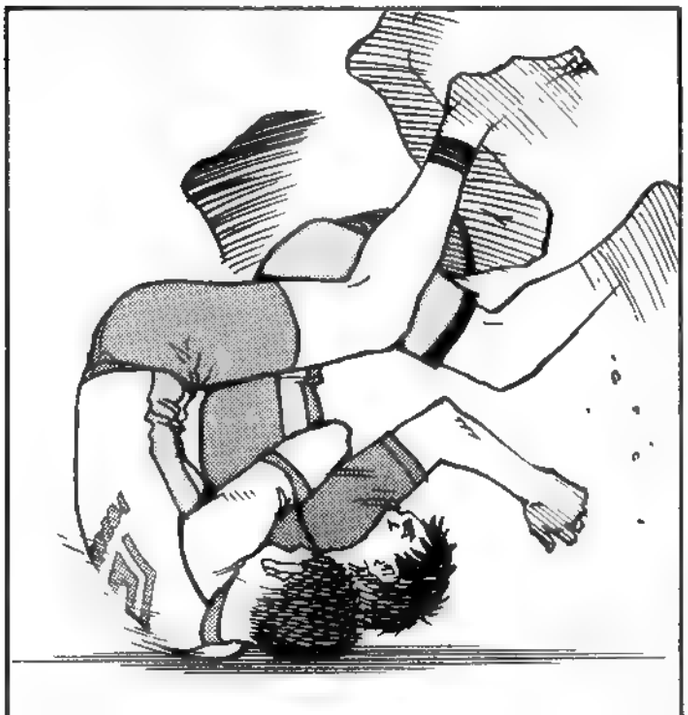
THERE YOU GO! NOW FLIP HIM OVER, MEGURU!
HRG!
ぐぐっ
ガッ
AN ARM-BAR?!
I'VE PRACTICED THIS A MILLION TIMES WITH YUDAI!
CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN!

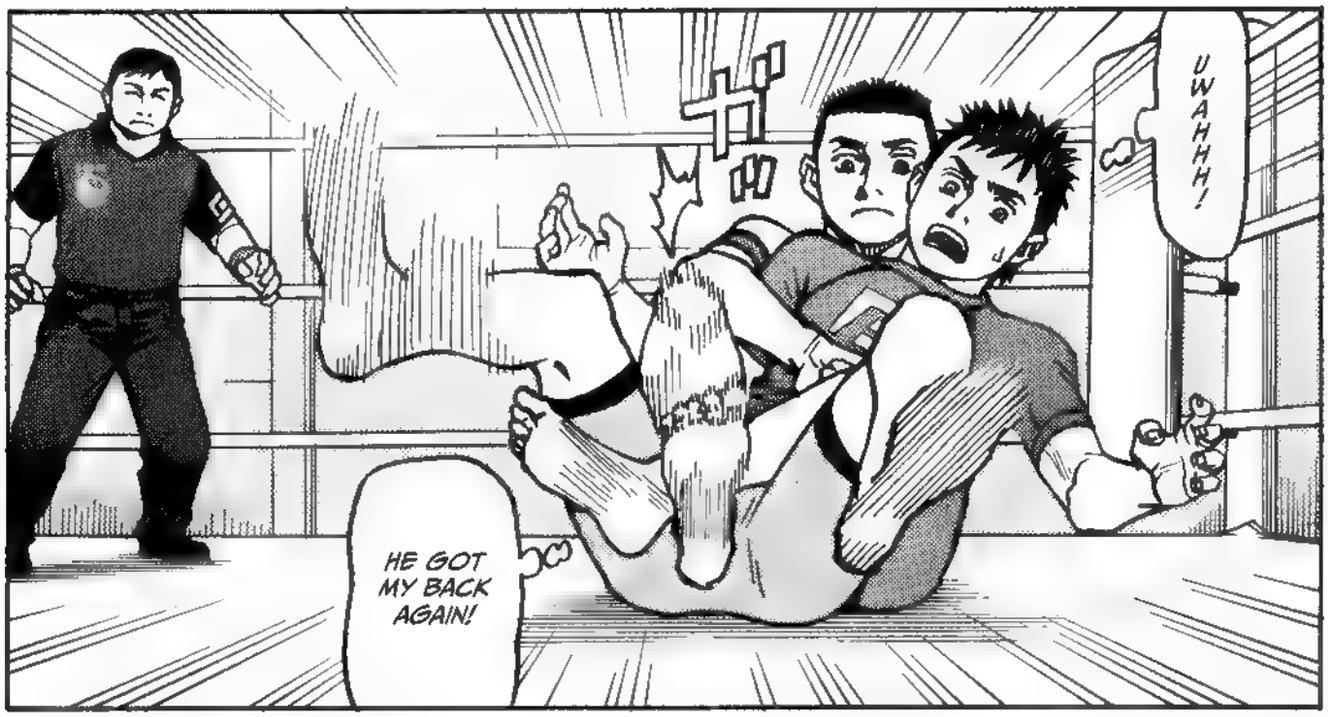
ズボッ
GOOD! NOW PULL YOUR ARM OUT SLOWLY!
PULL
PULL
THEN GO FOR A SIDE MOUNT!
PUSH
I WON'T LET YOU!
I CAN DO IT!
HOOK

WAH!

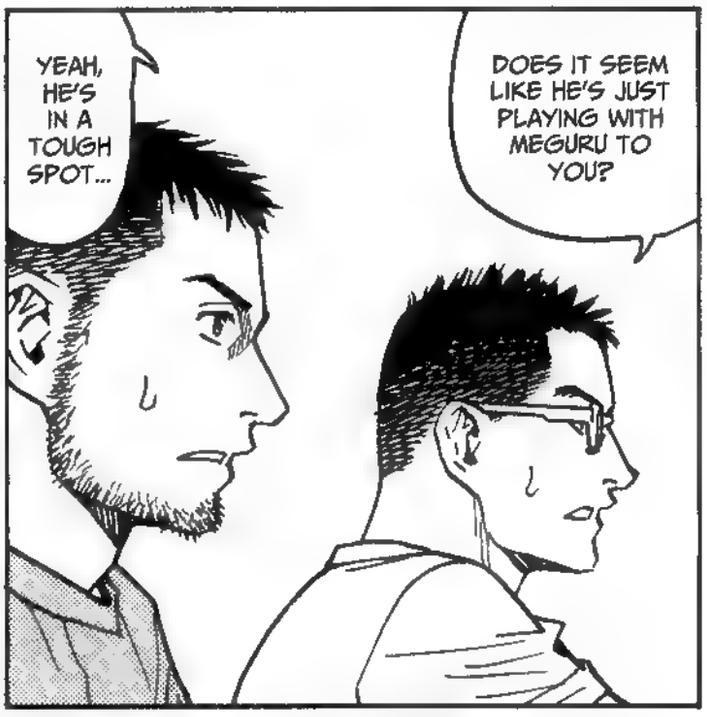
NOT THIS AGAIN!
SHIT!

ばっっ




UWAHHH!
HE GOT MY BACK AGAIN!

DON'T LET HIM GET YOU THERE!
YOU'VE GOTTA GUARD YOUR NECK!


YEAH, HE'S IN A TOUGH SPOT...
DOES IT SEEM LIKE HE'S JUST PLAYING WITH MEGURU TO YOU?

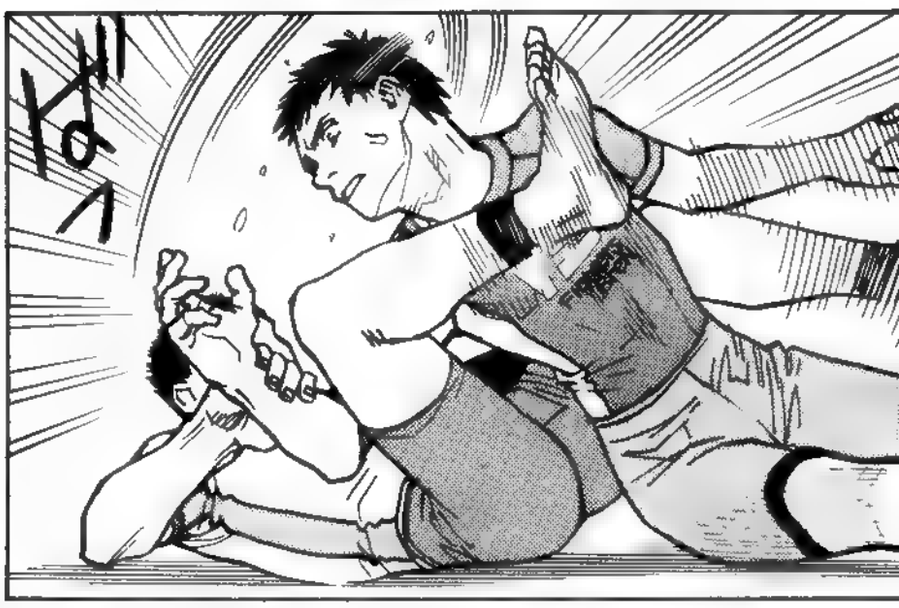
AND HE'S WATCHING OUT FOR AN ARMBAR...
TIME FOR PLAN B...
HE'S GOT A GOOD GUARD ON HIS NECK...

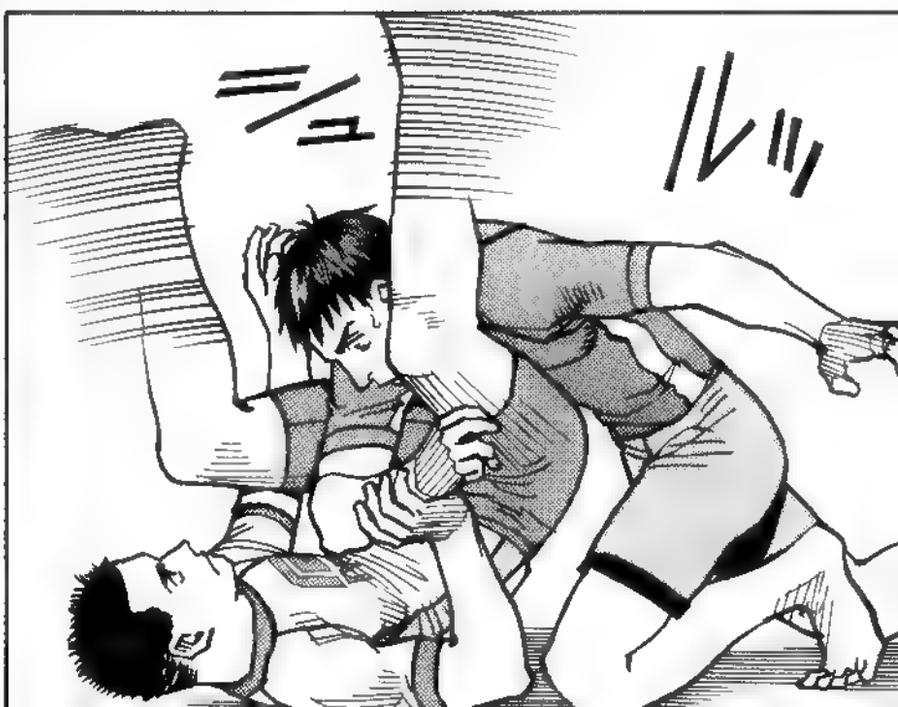
I CAN TURN AROUND!
I CAN MOVE!

WE-WE

!
OPEN

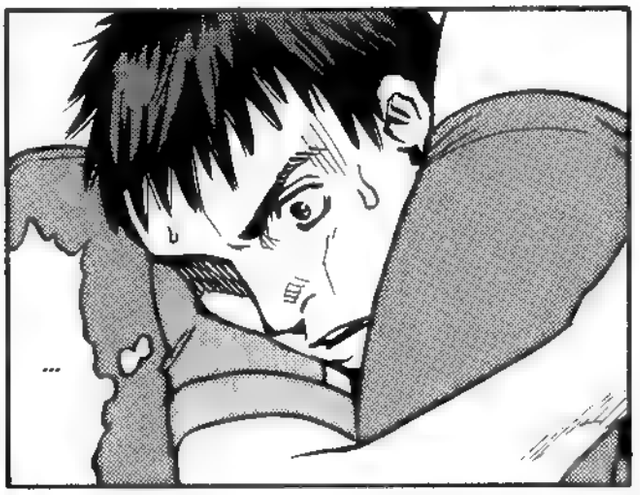
HUH ?!

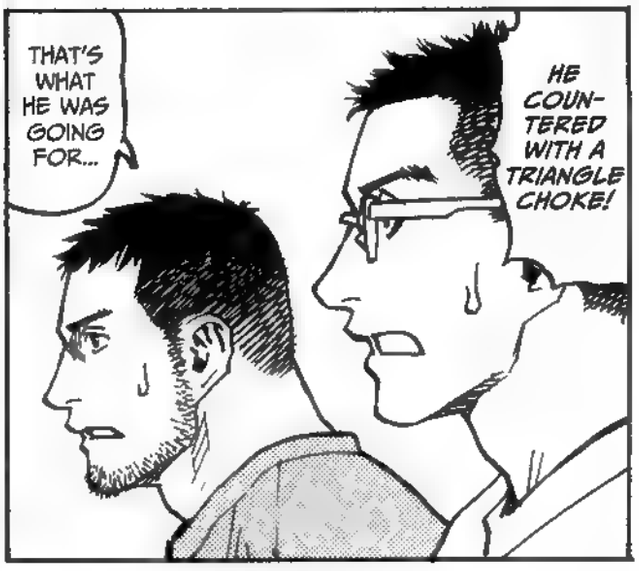




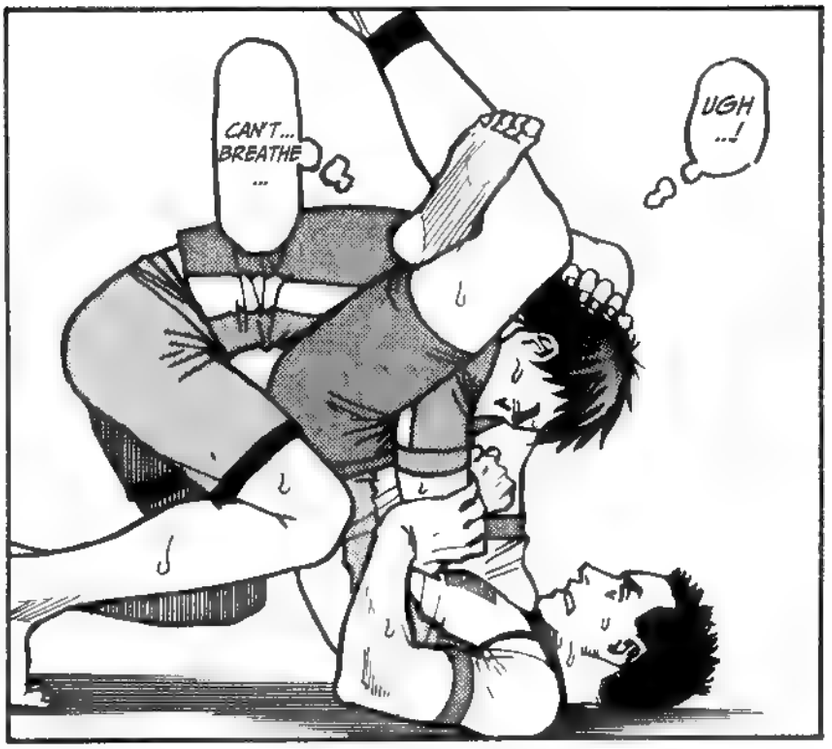
OUT-STANDING, KIYOSHI!
NOW FINISH HIM!

TURN YOUR ELBOW AND GET YOUR CHEST OUT!
Catch!
MEGURU! DON'T LET HIM TRAP YOUR ARM!

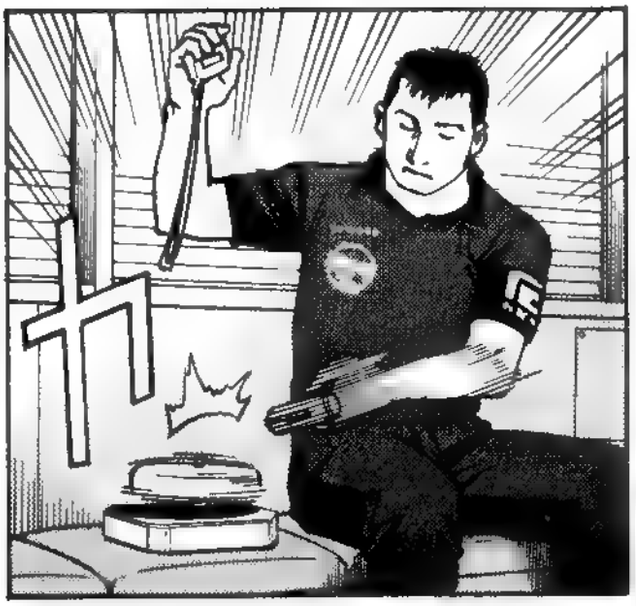

...


THAT'S WHAT HE WAS GOING FOR...
HE COUN-TERED WITH A TRIANGLE CHOKE!

I FEEL DIZZY...
OH NO ...!


CAN'T... BREATHE ...
UGH ...!

ROUND ONE OVER!
pant
pant
SAVED BY THE BELL...



STOP!

DON'T BACK OFF ON THE OFFENSE!
RIGHT.
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!
I KNOW.
GET A SUBMISSION!
HE'S PRETTY TOUGH.
I KNOW.
YOU DIDN'T PULL OFF THE TRIANGLE.
EVEN WHEN I'M ON TOP...
I DON'T KNOW... I JUST...
HE SIMPLY GETS UNDER ME...
...WITH HIS SPIRAL GUARD...
YOU WERE REALLY HAVING TROUBLE...
pant
pant
JUST STAY CALM AND TAKE CONTROL OF HIS SIDE!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BUT THERE'S A LOT OF PRESSURE WHEN HE'S UNDER ME...

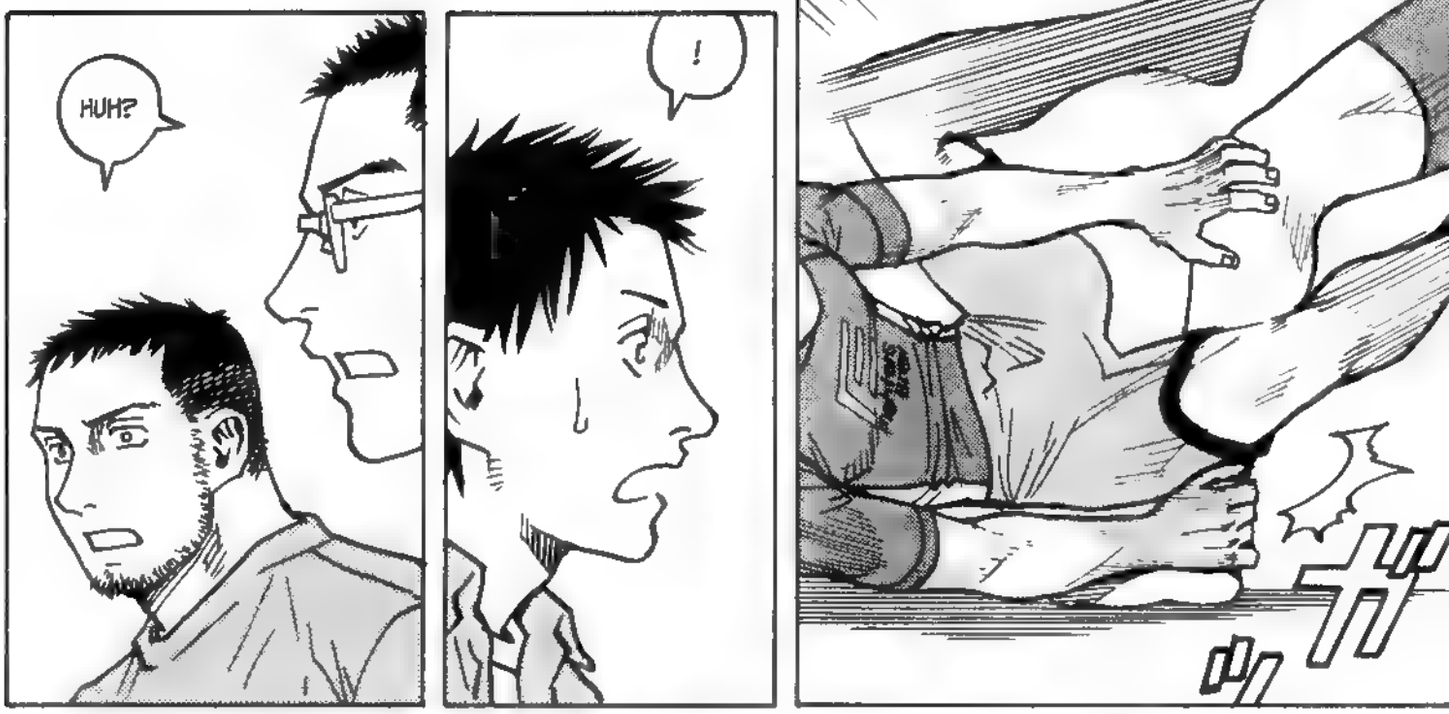
MEGURU DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE...
PUREBRED ORIYA
WHAT'S THE SCORE?
TWO BACKS, ONE CATCH, AND TWO LIGHT CATCHES,
SO 8-0...
ROUND TWO! LAST ROUND!
SECOND OUT!
THIS IS SO BORING. WHY DOESN'T HE JUST FINISH HIM OFF?
MAKI, REALLY...
I WILL!
OK.
DON'T THINK ABOUT WINNING OR LOSING!
JUST GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT!
ANYWAY, MEGURU...

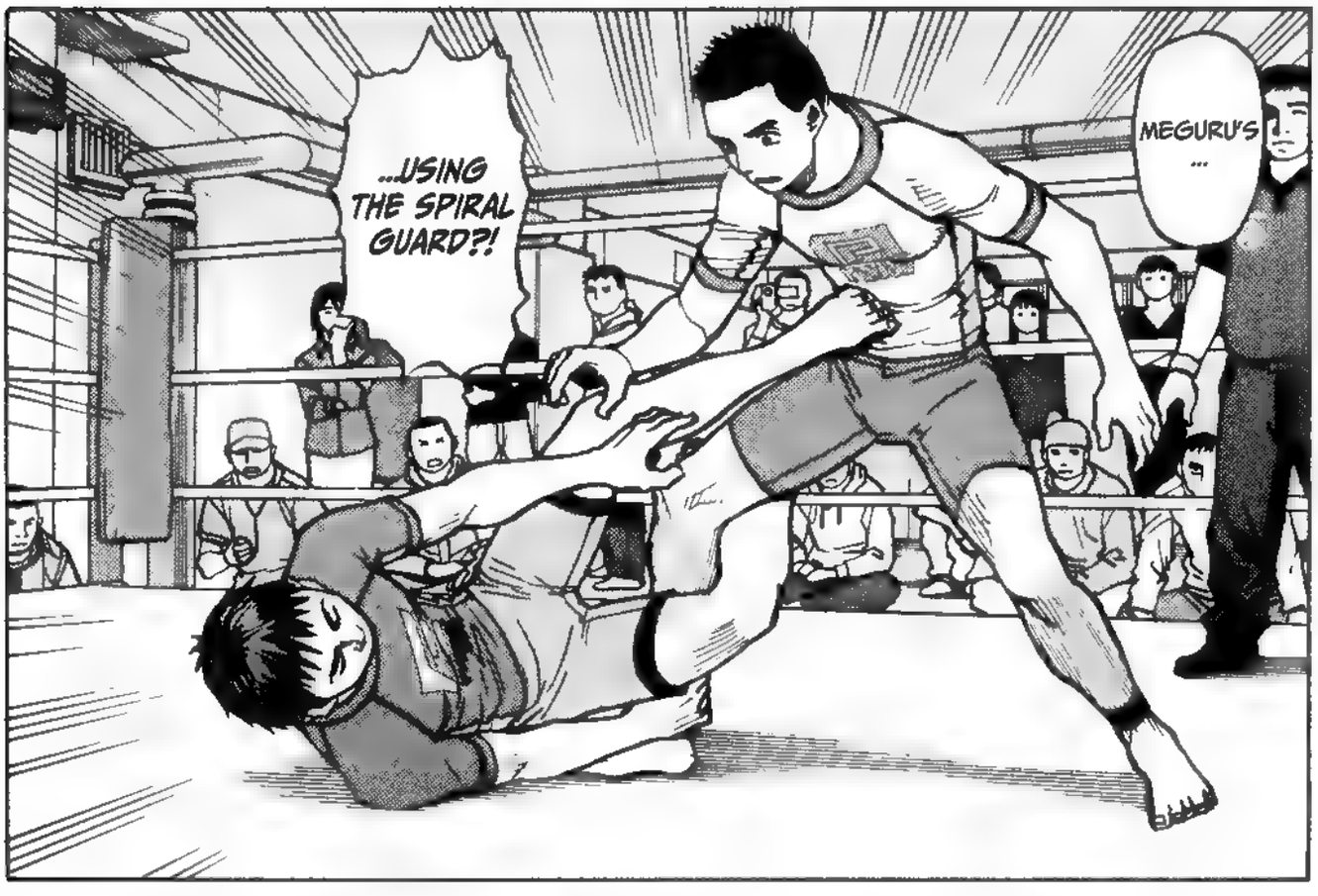
カァー
FIGHT!

ばっ
!

...AND SET THE PACE...
IF I TAKE THE TOP POSITION, HE'LL JUST TRAP ME IN HIS GUARD AGAIN...

I'VE GOTTA CHANGE TACTICS...
SO...


HUH?
!
ガ


...USING THE SPIRAL GUARD?!
MEGURU'S ...

...HE KNOWS HOW TO USE THE SPIRAL, TOO?!
DON'T TELL ME...

UM...
...
YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO PULL OFF SOMETHING YOU'VE NEVER EVEN PRACTICED!
MORON!
NOW WHAT?
MY GUARD...
I'VE GOTTA GET MY GUARD BACK...
HE'S CRUSHING ME!
WAH!

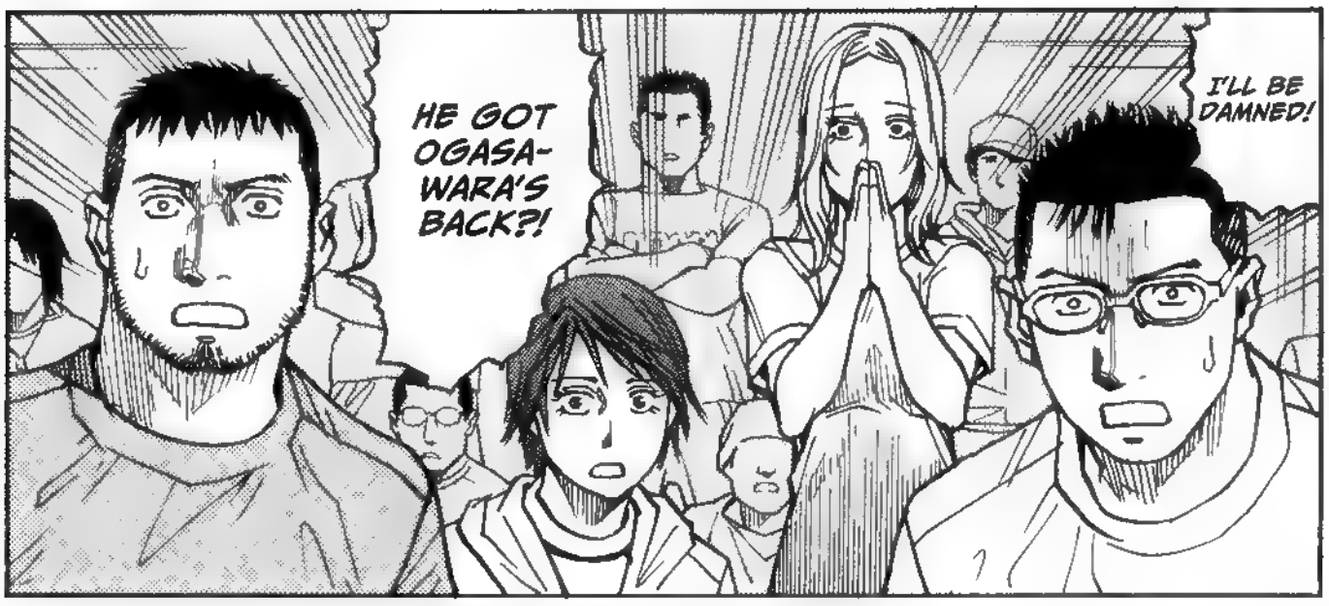
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK ME...
DON'T FUCK WITH ME, BOY!
...TO MASTER THIS GUARD?
WHAT'S HE DOING?
IS HE JUST TRYING TO COPY...
...WHAT HE SAW ME DO?
I TRAINED FOR THE NATIONALS.
I'VE BEEN DOING WRES-TLING SINCE I WAS FIVE.
I BEGAN STUDYING JIU-JITSU AT 18, WITH NO PREVIOUS MARTIAL ARTS EXPERIENCE...
Aieee!
...TO COPY THIS!
IT'S NOT THAT EASY...
WAH!
...SO I STUDIED HOW TO ATTACK FROM BELOW.
I COULDN'T BEAT THEM IN STANDING POSITION...

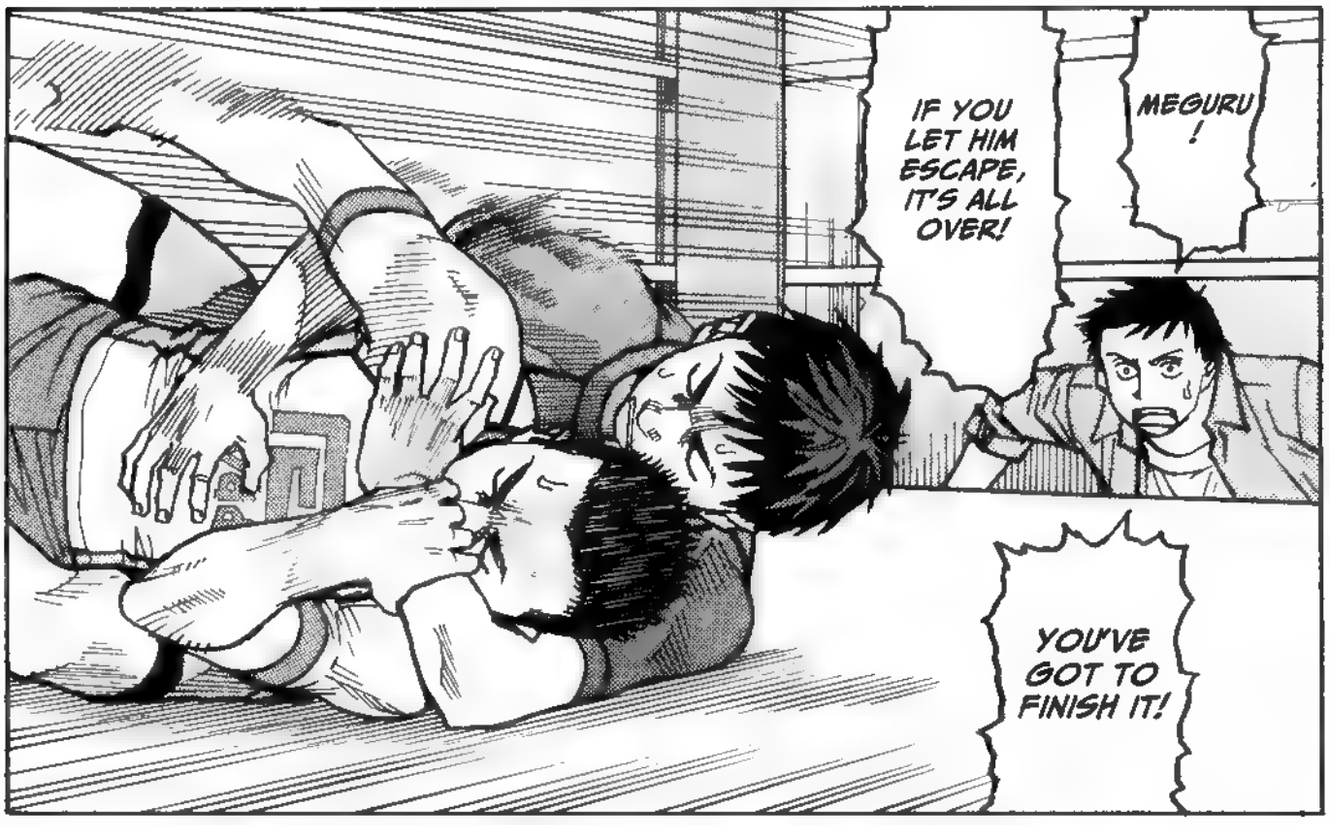
gasp
gasp
HNGH...
IT'S NO USE...
HE'S REALLY GOT ME!
gasp
gasp
I KNOW HOW TO DEFEND AGAINST IT!
IT'S MY SPECIAL MOVE...
AN ARM DRAG!
!
FINE, THEN!
AN ARM DRAG?!

pant
CRAP!
!
!!!
大和魂
OH...
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT AGAIN.
HE REALLY GOT A RESPONSE THERE...
I'VE GOTTA PASS GUARD AND FINISH THIS!
FUCK!
AND THE ARM DRAG THAT WORKED ON YUDAI DIDN'T WORK ON HIM.
pant
I CAN'T COPY HIS SPIRAL...
WHAT CAN I DO?
pant

ANOTHER ARM DRAG?!
!
!

HE CAPTURED MY BACK ?!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
...INTO THE SPIRAL ...
HE WENT FROM THE ARM DRAG...
HUH ?!


HE GOT OGASA-WARA'S BACK?!
I'LL BE DAMNED!

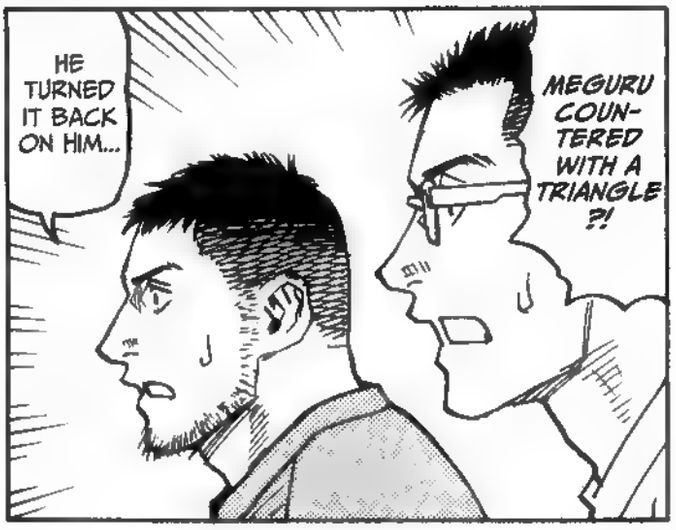

IF YOU LET HIM ESCAPE, IT'S ALL OVER!
MEGURU!
YOU'VE GOT TO FINISH IT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE TOOK MY BACK, EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A COIN-CIDENCE...!
SON OF A BITCH!

I'M CONFIDENT IN MY ABILITY TO GUARD AGAINST A CHOKE!
I KNOW THAT!
GUARD YOUR NECK AND TURN AROUND!
CALM DOWN, KIYOSHI!
gasp
HIS DEFENSE IS STRONG..!
HE'S NOT GONNA LET ME COMPLETE THE HOLD..!
pant
HANG IN THERE!
IF I CAN KEEP THIS UP, I'LL STILL HAVE MORE POINTS THAN HIM!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!
pant
WHAT SHOULD I DO ?!
gasp
ONLY 30 SECONDS LEFT!
MEGURU, TIME'S RUNNING OUT!

I CAN MOUNT HIM!
I CAN TURN AROUND!
OH!
IS HE GONNA ESCAPE?!
SHIT!
!!

...


HE TURNED IT BACK ON HIM...
MEGURU COUN-TERED WITH A TRIANGLE ?!

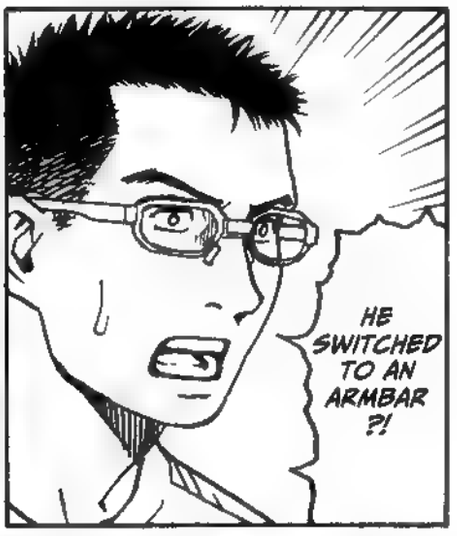
Chapter 17 | First Victory!

MEGURU! KNEES TOGETHER! GET HIS ARM!
FINISH IT!
pant
CAN HE GET HIS ARM OUT?!
I'VE GOT HIM LOCKED IN!
pant
I WON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!
I CAN ESCAPE!
KIYOSHI! GET YOUR RIGHT KNEE ON HIS SIDE!

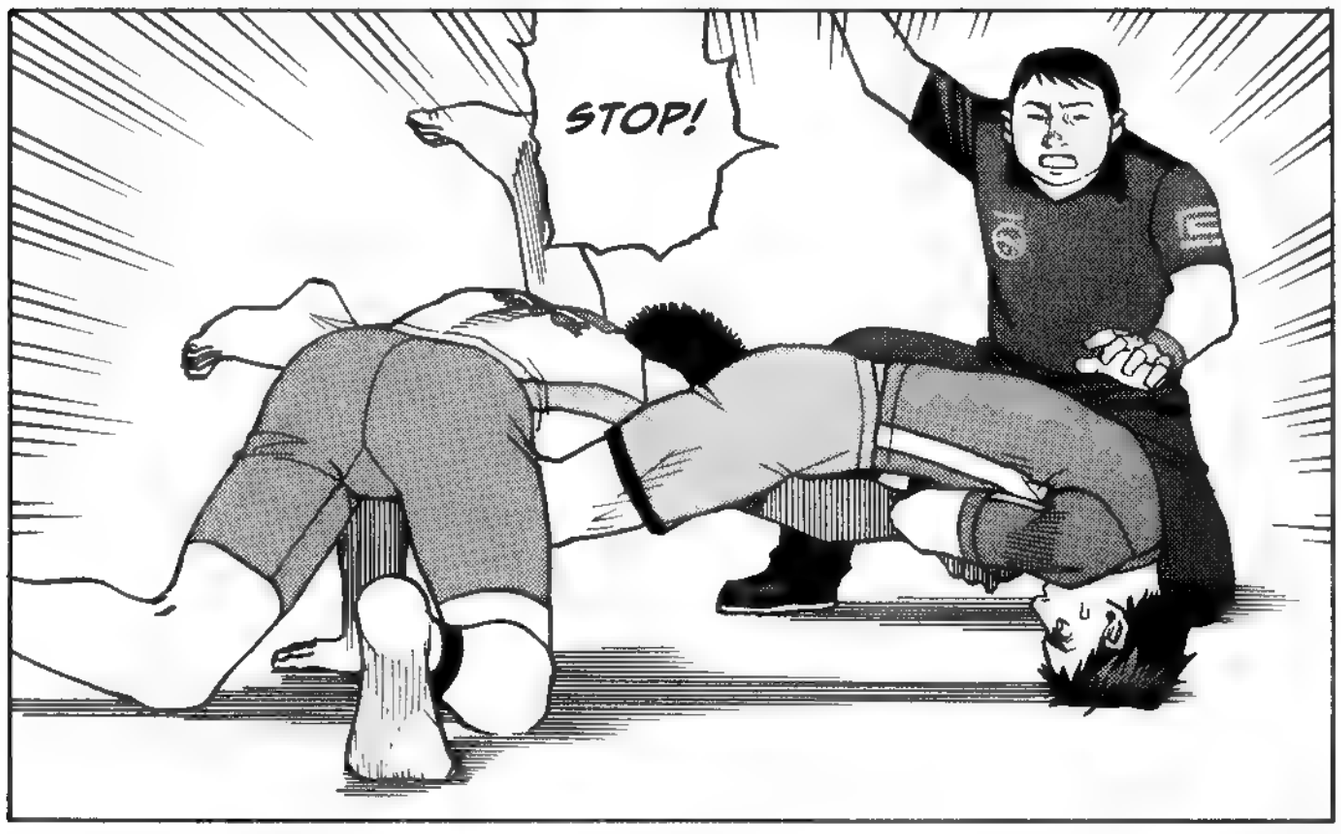
OGASA-WARA'S DEFENSE IS QUITE STRONG.
...NO.
HE'S GOT THAT TRIANGLE LOCKED IN PRETTY GOOD, HASN'T HE?
ぱっ
!

HURG!

I KNOW I CAN!
I CAN DO THIS!


HE SWITCHED TO AN ARMBAR ?!

WHOA!


STOP!

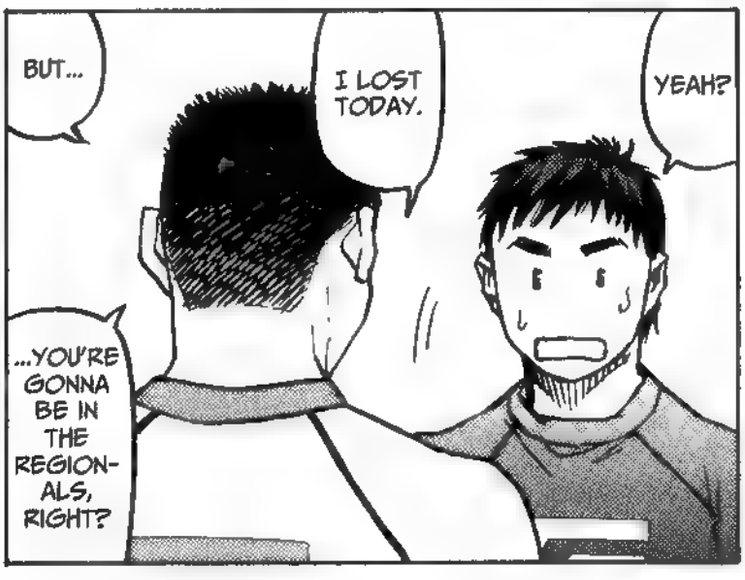
YES!
カカカ
ニニニ
MATCH OVER!
カーン

gasp
I...
WON...
gasp
DAMN RIGHT, MEGURU, YOU WON!
STAND UP!

...MEGURU TAKA-YANAGI!
I WON ...
THE REFEREE HAS CALLED A STOP TO THIS MATCH AT 2 MINUTES AND 57 SECONDS OF ROUND NUMBER TWO...
...DECLARING THE WINNER BY SUBMIS-SION DUE TO AN ARMBAR...

...BY SHOOTO RULES!
ZOOM
AND THEN WE'LL BE FIGHTING ...
R-RIGHT ...

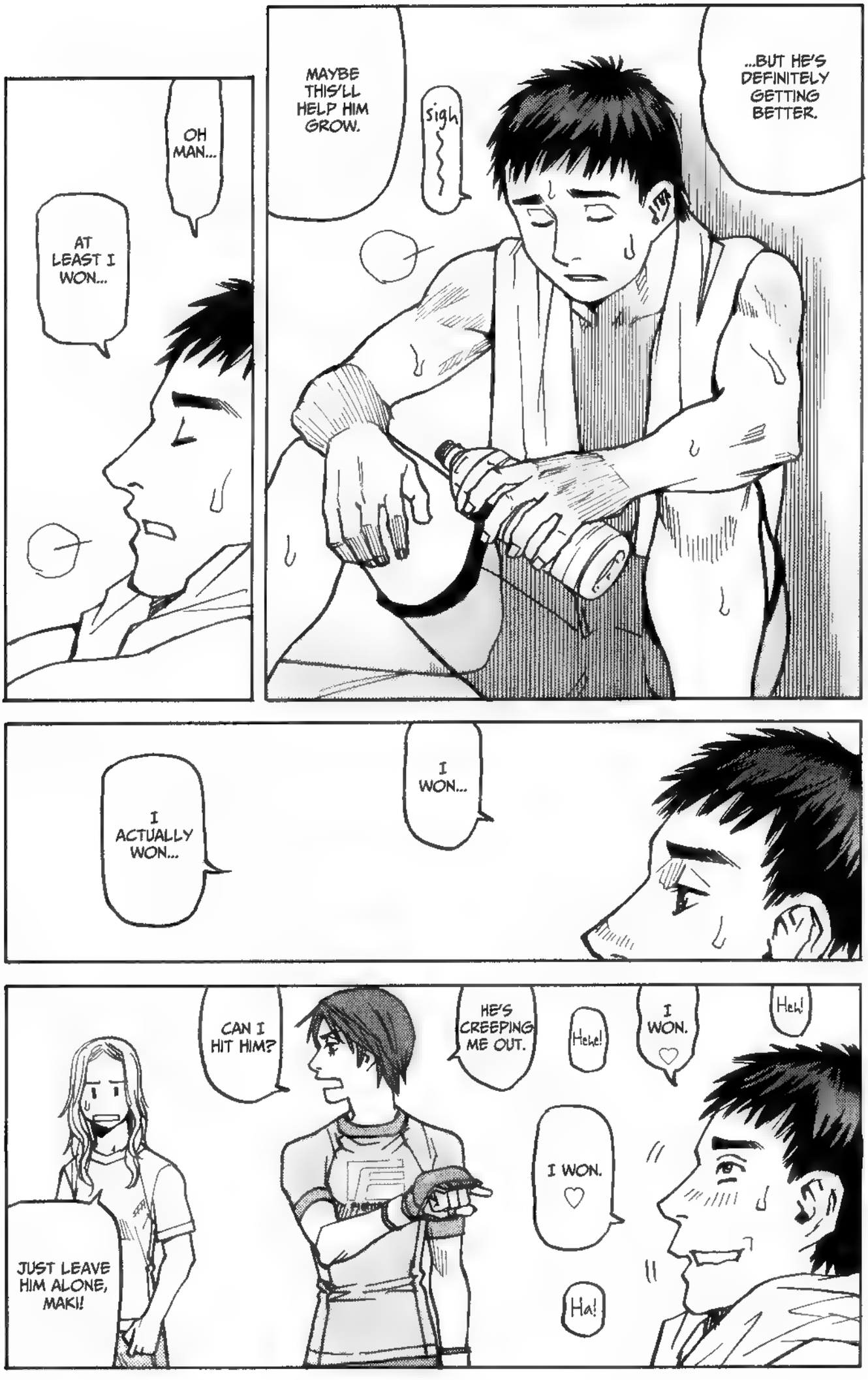
MEGU-RU!
GRAB
THANK YOU...


BUT...
I LOST TODAY.
YEAH?
...YOU'RE GONNA BE IN THE REGION-ALS, RIGHT?

UH-OH, MEGURU...
HE'S GOT YOU IN HIS SIGHTS.
ビシィ
SEE YA!
HE LOST TO A HIGH-SCHOOLER, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?
HOW CAN HE BE SUCH A SORE LOSER?!
WHAT IS HE, A STALKER?!
HE CAN REALLY HOLD A GRUDGE.
HUH?
HE WON'T LET GO OF IT TILL HE BEATS YOU.
I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT TAKAYANAGI'S GOOD AT, THOUGH.
I SURE DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING...
HE TURNED THE TABLES AND WON BY SUBMISSION...

...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...
YOU KNEW HIM GROWING UP, RIGHT?
WHAT WAS HE LIKE WHEN YOU STUDIED KARATE?
...I'VE EVER SEEN HIM SO DESPERATE TO WIN.

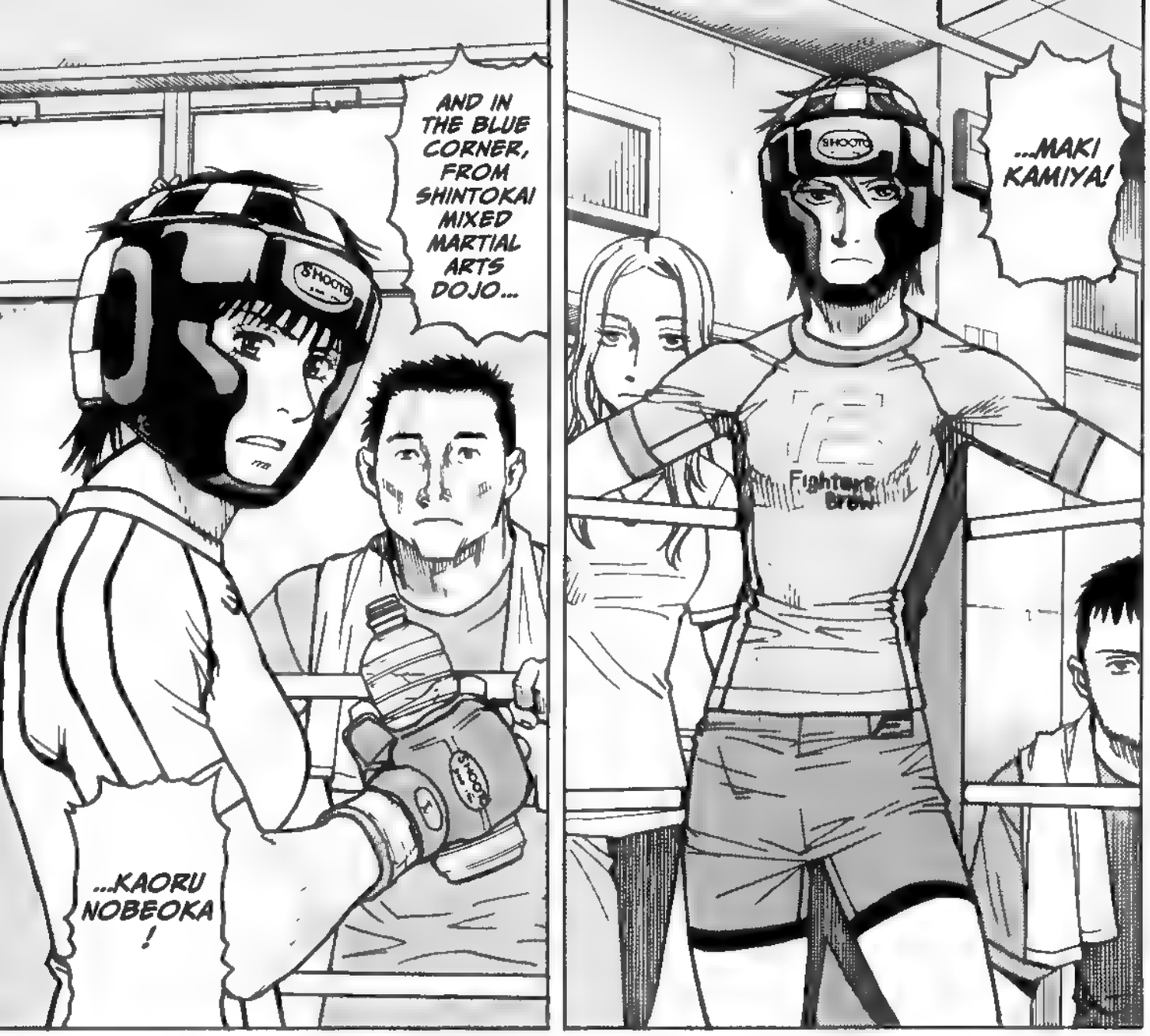
OH, JEEZ!
YOU MANAGED TO TURN THE TABLES ON HIM, BUT YOU REALLY NEED TO PRACTICE MORE.
YOU TOTALLY *SUCKED* IN THE FIRST HALF.
WHO CARES? I *WON*, DIDN'T I?
HE CAN'T KEEP THAT UP, THOUGH.
IN SECTIONALS YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE FOUR-MINUTE ROUND.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WON BY COPYING HIS OPPONENT'S MOVES.
WHAT A FUNNY KID.
...
MAYBE SO.
BY THE TIME HE FIGURES OUT WHAT HIS OPPONENT'S DOING, TIME'LL BE UP.
HE MAY NOT HAVE A PARTICULAR STYLE OR MOVE YET...


OH MAN...
AT LEAST I WON...
MAYBE THIS'LL HELP HIM GROW.
sigh
...BUT HE'S DEFINITELY GETTING BETTER.
I ACTUALLY WON...
I WON...
CAN I HIT HIM?
HE'S CREEPING ME OUT.
Hehe!
I WON. ♡
Heh!
I WON. ♡
Ha!
JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE, MAKI!

A' RIGHT.
NO KNEE STRIKES TO THE HEAD!
NO BODY SLAMS.
AND NO STRIKING ON THE GROUND, EITHER.
THEN USE YOUR LEG TO TURN AROUND.
THAT'S IT!
IF SHE GETS A HOLD OF YOU, JUST STAY CALM..
...AND BRACE YOUR KNEE LIKE ALWAYS.

COME ON, YUDAI.
IS SHE EVEN LISTENING?
...
SHE'S PROBABLY NOT LISTENING.
SHE'S CONVINCED KICK-BOXING'S INVINCIBLE.
I KNOW.
JUST LIKE WE PRAC-TICED.
OK.
YOUR OPPONENT KNOWS JUDO, SO WATCH OUT FOR LEG SWEEPS.
OH!
THERE'S MY PREY.

BAH!
YEAH ...
SHE LOOKS PRETTY STRONG...
I CAN'T...
...LOSE TO THAT...
HEY, NOW, MAKI,
WHERE'RE YOU LOOKING AT?
IN THE RED CORNER, FROM FIGHTERS BREW...
MATCH 20, FEATHER-WEIGHT DIVISION, 2 ROUNDS!


AND IN THE BLUE CORNER, FROM SHINTOKAI MIXED MARTIAL ARTS DOJO...
...KAORU NOBEOKA!
...MAKI KAMIYA!

FOLLOW THE RULES. I WANT TO SEE A FAIR FIGHT!
ARE THOSE TWO REALLY IN THE SAME DIVISION?
LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR HEIGHTS.
THE ONE IN THE RED CORNER'S HUGE.

AND IF YOU GET TAKEN DOWN, DON'T PANIC!
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.
OK.
SHOOTO
BUT IT WON'T MATTER IF I CAN GET IN CLOSE.
YEAH.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT HER. YOU CAN'T MATCH HER REACH.
FIGHT!
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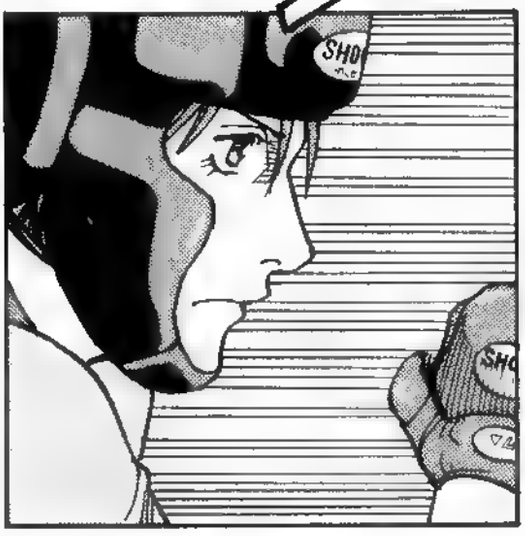
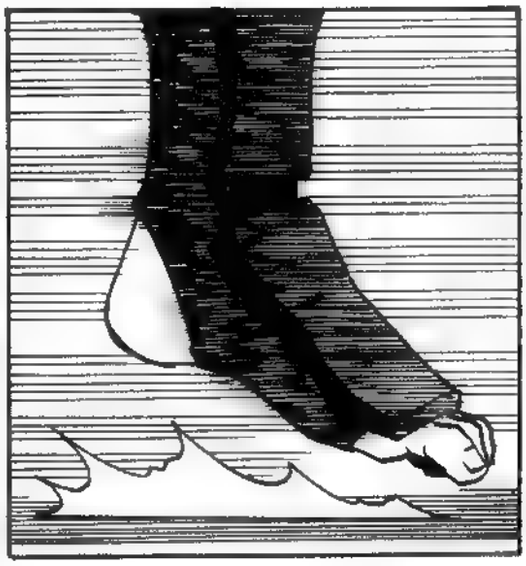
Chapter 18 | Kickboxing vs. Judo

SHOOTO
SHOOTO
3


SHO

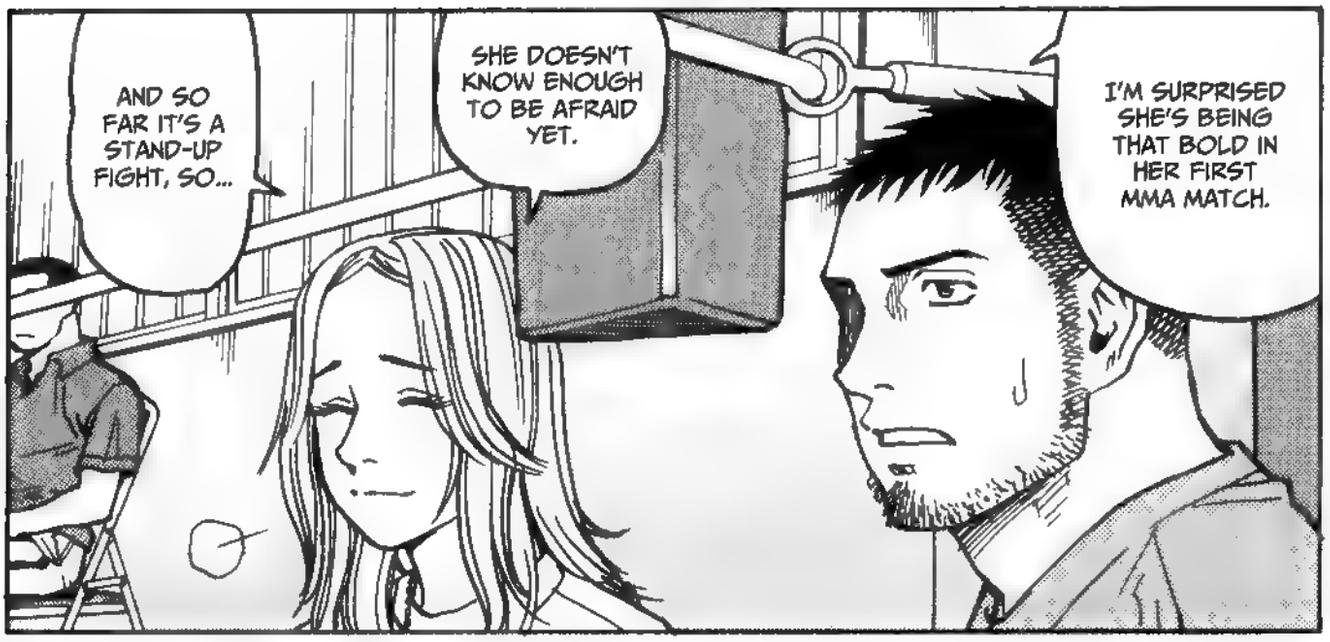


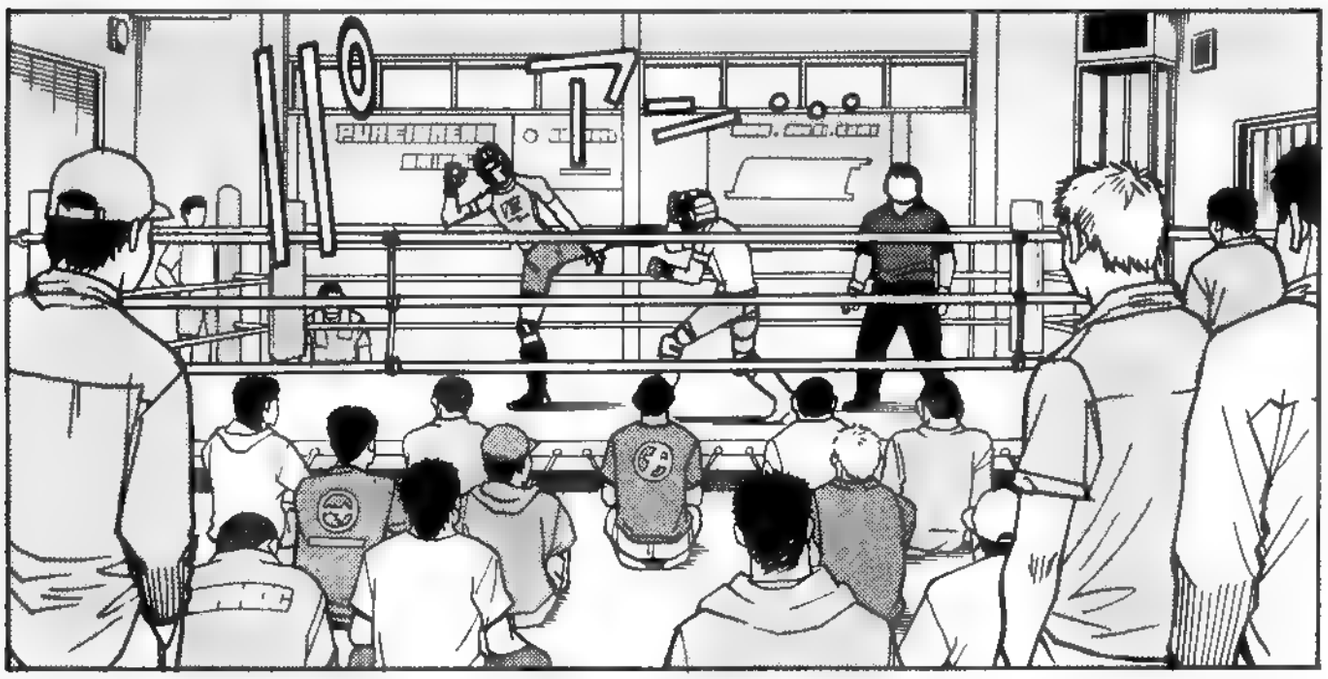
GET AROUND TO THE RIGHT! THE RIGHT!
WHOOO!
NICE KICKS, KAMIYA!

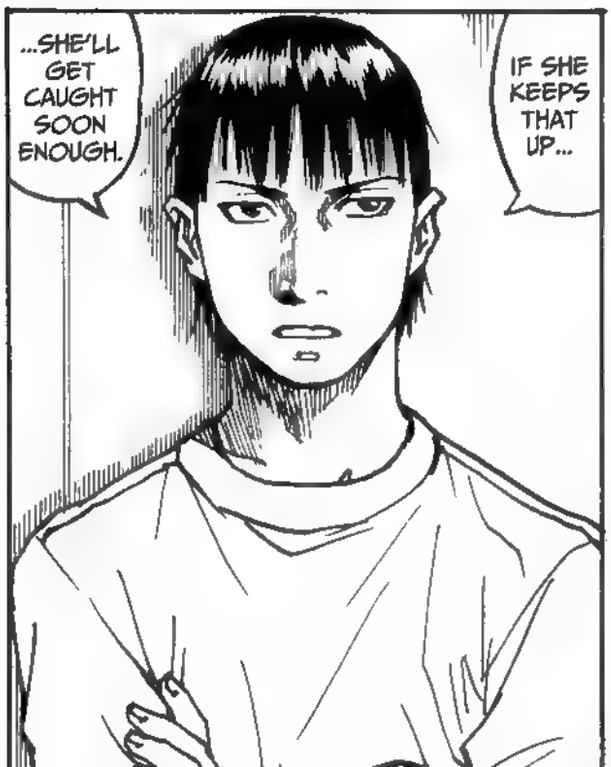
KAORU! DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN ON YOUR RIGHT!
HER STYLE REALLY MAKES USE OF HER LONG REACH...

SHE COUNTERED THAT LEG KICK WITH A PUNCH, BUT STILL COULDN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH.
THERE'S TOO BIG A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR REACHES...

SO I'LL JUST KEEP HER AT BAY WITH JABS AND LEFT MIDDLES!
ALL I NEED TO DO IS MAKE SURE SHE CAN'T GRAB ME, RIGHT?


I'M SURPRISED SHE'S BEING THAT BOLD IN HER FIRST MMA MATCH.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ENOUGH TO BE AFRAID YET.
AND SO FAR IT'S A STAND-UP FIGHT, SO...




IF SHE KEEPS THAT UP...
...SHE'LL GET CAUGHT SOON ENOUGH.

SHE'S USING LEFT MIDDLE KICKS TOWARDS THE SHOULDER TO AVOID GETTING CAUGHT...
HER STYLE'S SIMILAR TO YOURS, TAKASHI.

HER REACH IS EVEN GREATER THAN I'D IMAGINED...
BUT I'M NOT FEELING A LOT OF PRESSURE.
I CAN DO THIS!
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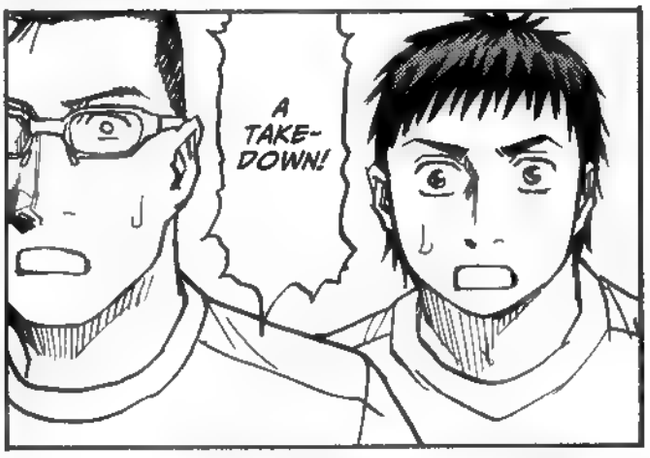
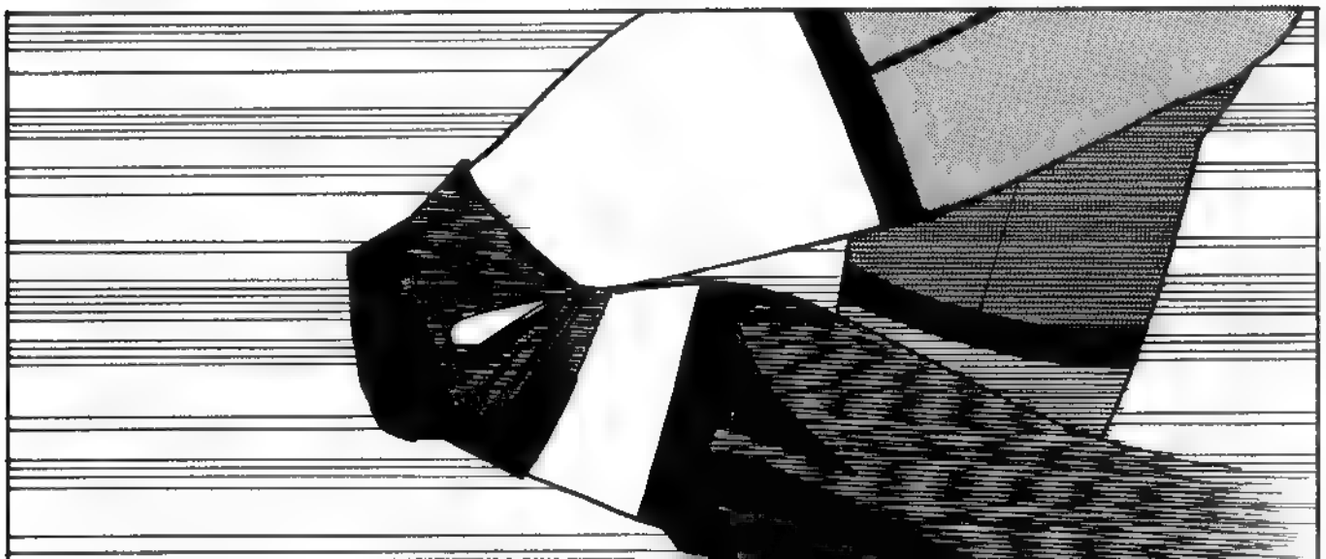
SHOOTO
SHOOTO
YU

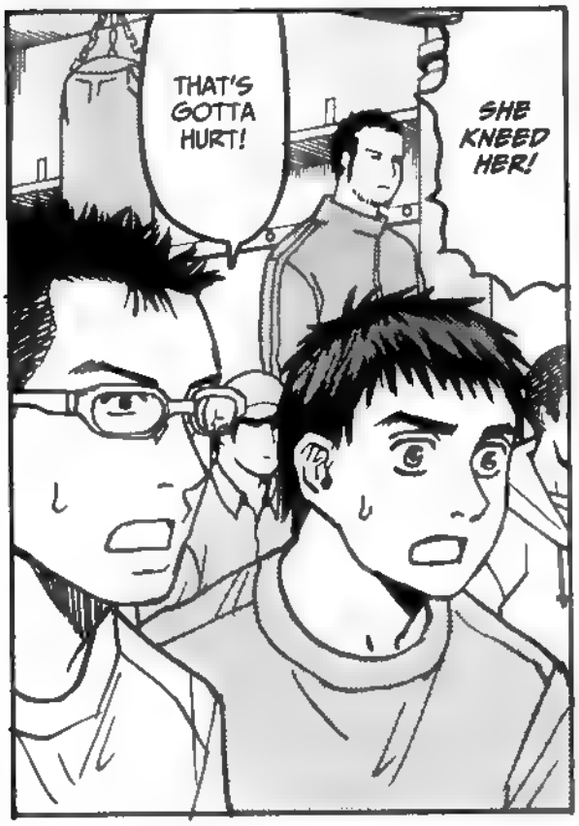
ヒュ!!!
WOOSH!
SHOOTO

!
SHE DUCKED!

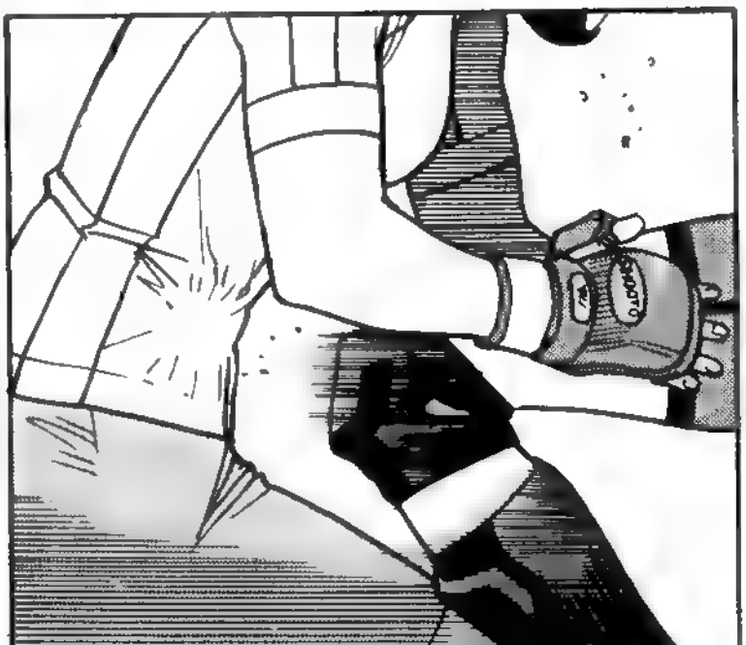
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!

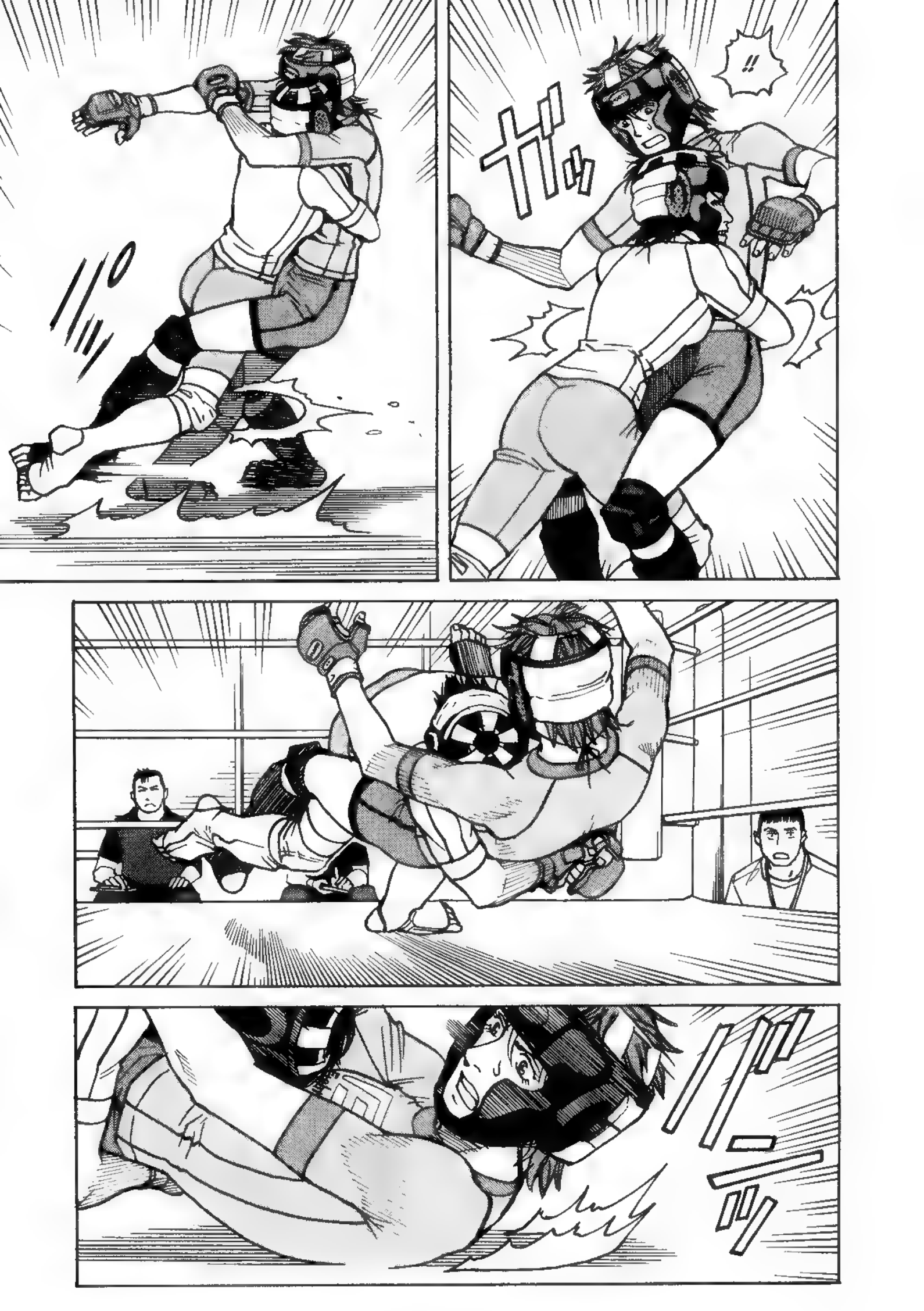

A TAKE-DOWN!



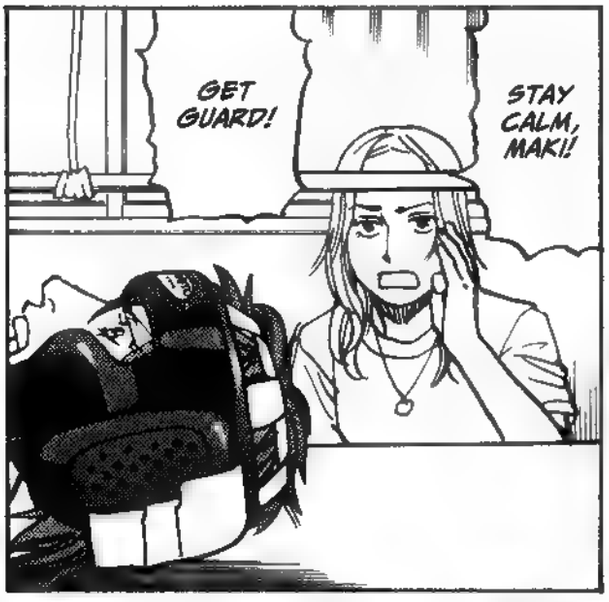

THAT'S GOTTA HURT!
SHE KNEED HER!

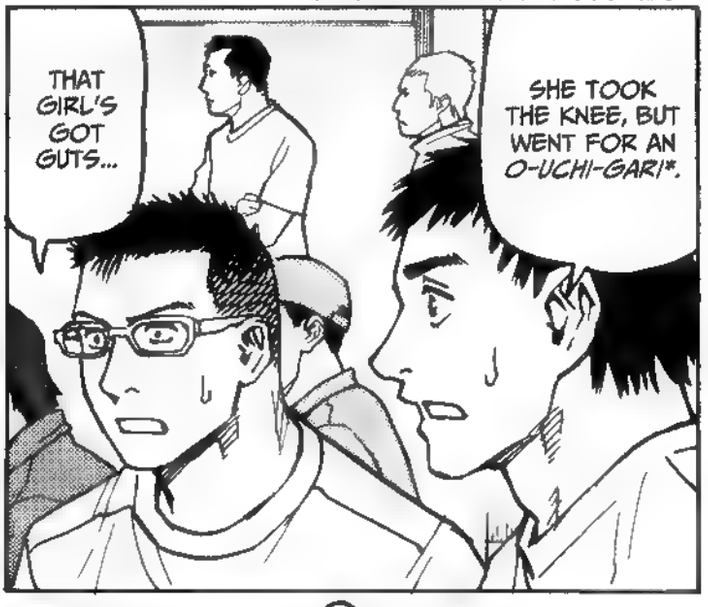
...





*AKA "LARGE INNER REAP." A JUDO THROW.

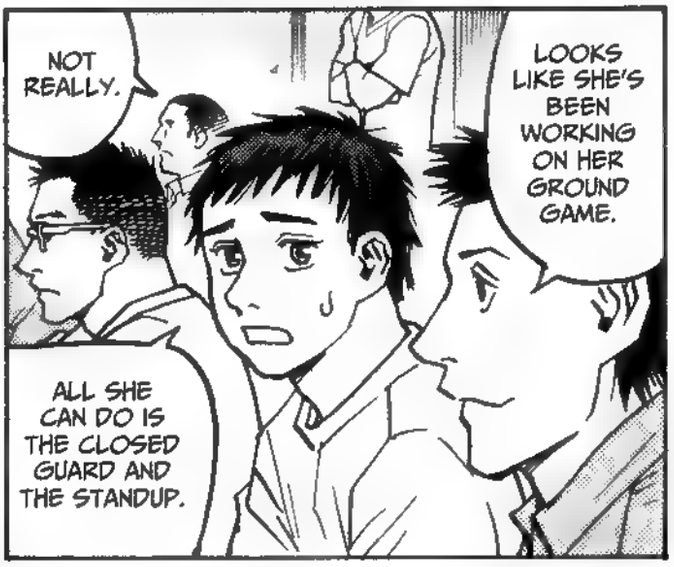


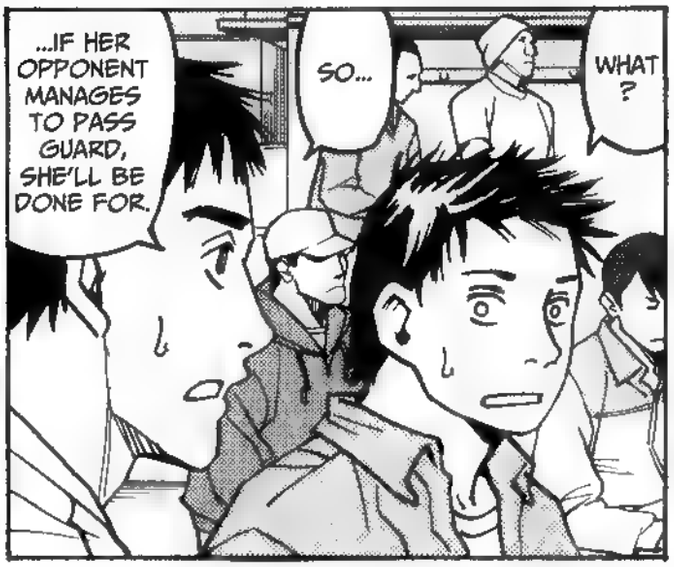


PRESS
PRESS
DID...
SHOOTO
...THE KNEE WORK?!

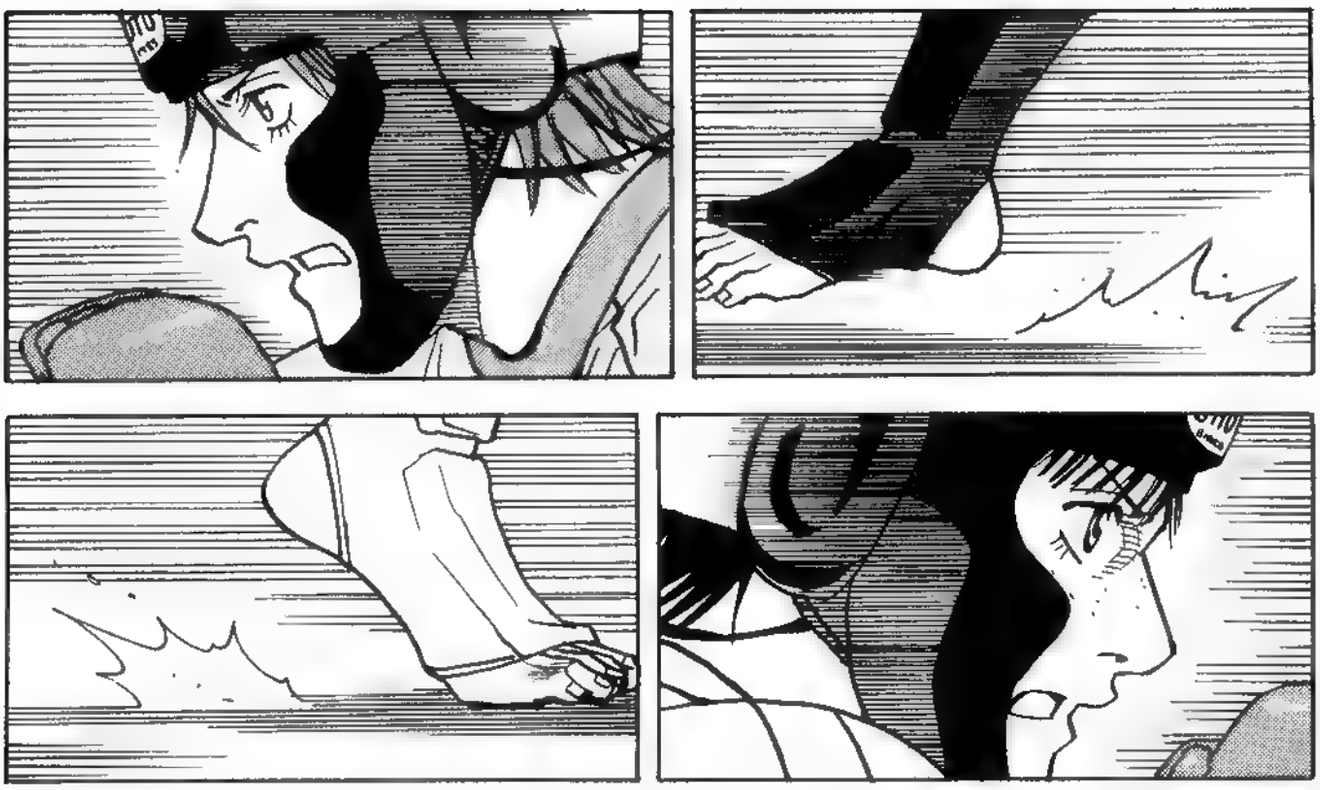
THAT WAS A NICE "JIU-JITSU STANDUP."
STAND UP!
OHHHH...

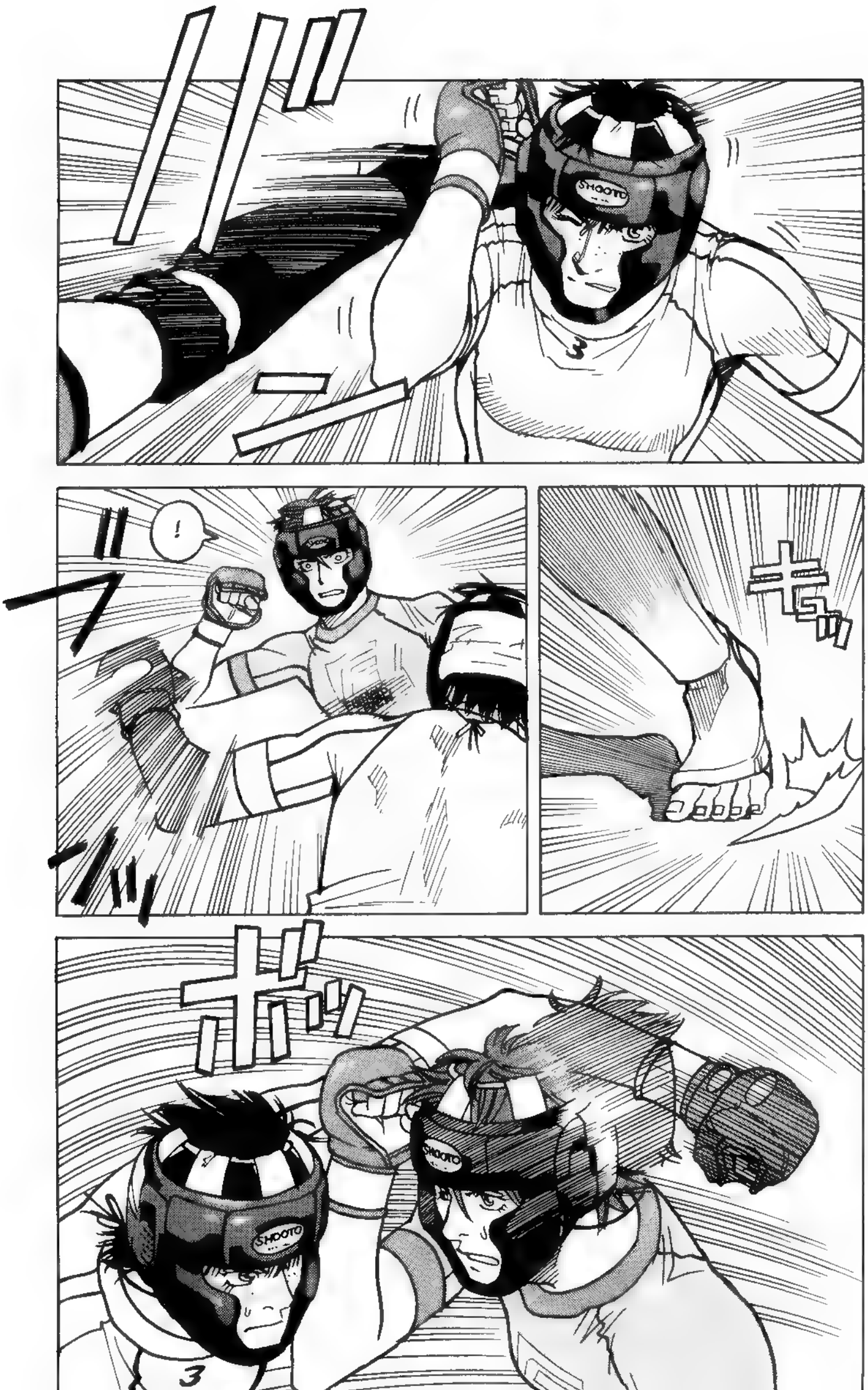
WHAT-EVER MAKI DOES...
...SHE HAS TO STAY ON HER FEET.


NOT REALLY.
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S BEEN WORKING ON HER GROUND GAME.
ALL SHE CAN DO IS THE CLOSED GUARD AND THE STANDUP.


...IF HER OPPONENT MANAGES TO PASS GUARD, SHE'LL BE DONE FOR.
SO...
WHAT?

THAT KNEE...
IF SHE DOES THAT AGAIN, I'LL BE A GONER...
HUFF
HAH
TAKE A DEEP BREATH, KAORU!
SHE'S NOT GONNA LET ME GET ANOTHER ONE IN...
I REALLY CAUGHT HER WITH THAT KNEE.
THIS DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING!
DON'T LET HER SCARE YOU!
I'LL SETTLE THIS WITH A HIGH LEFT!
ALL RIGHT!


SHOOTO


SHOOTO
3
!
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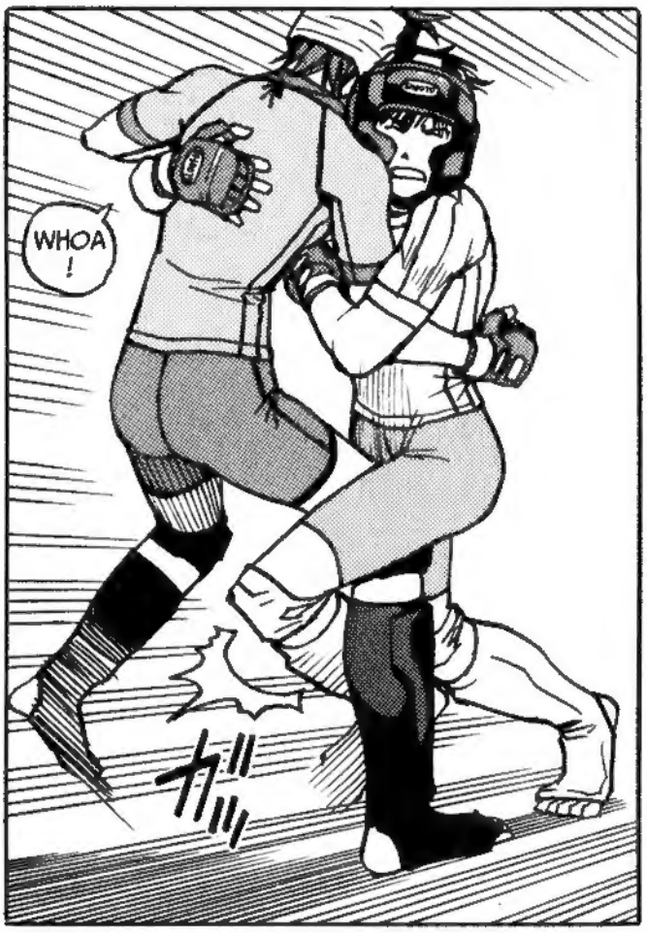
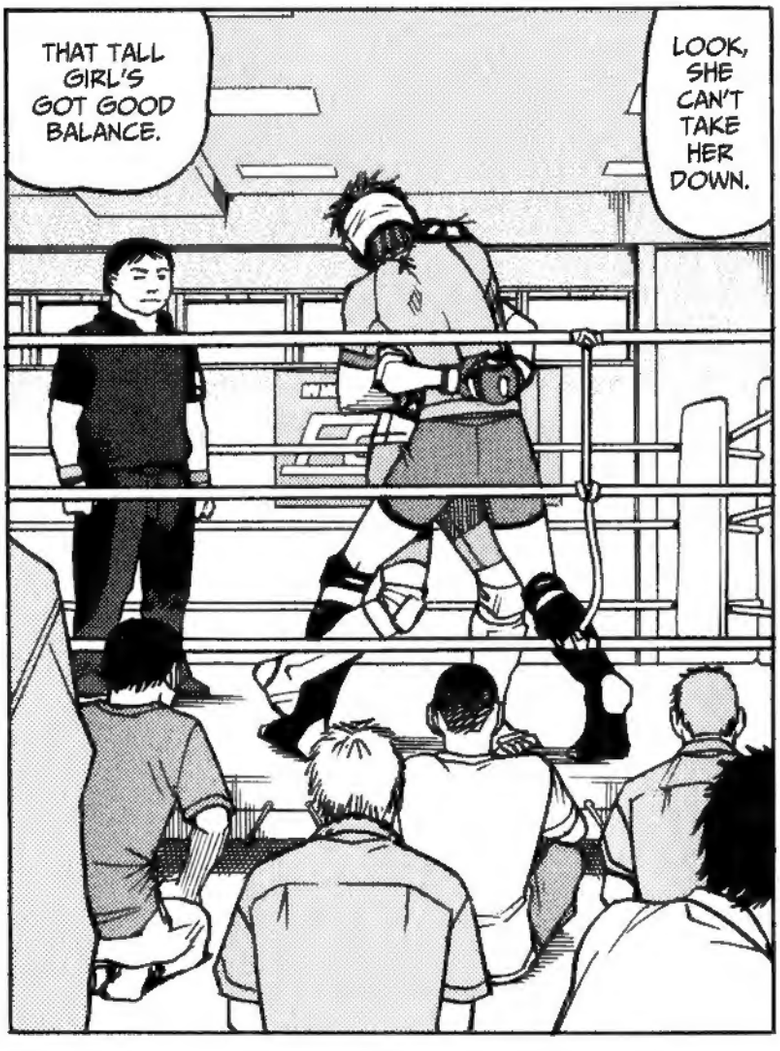
SHOOTO
SHOOTO
3

ガッ
ハッ
SHE GOT HER!
GOOD!

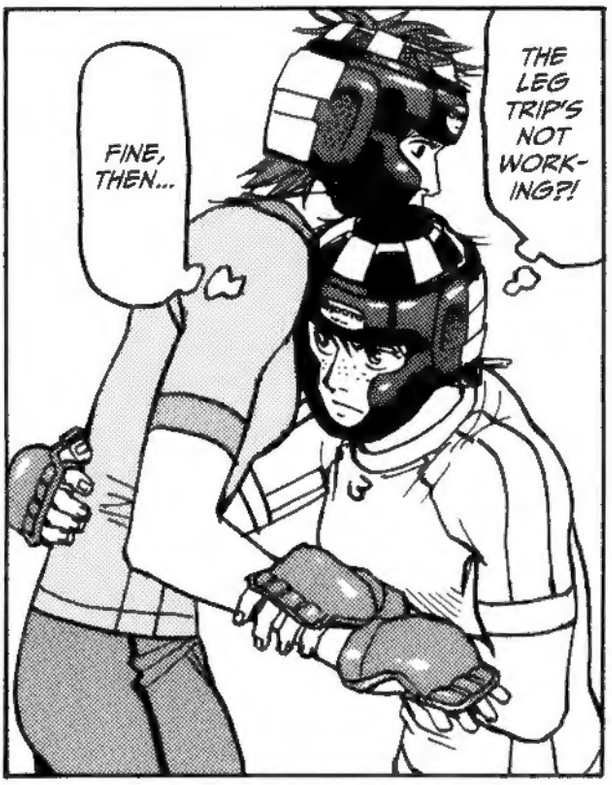

WHOA!

WHOOPS!


THAT TALL GIRL'S GOT GOOD BALANCE.
LOOK, SHE CAN'T TAKE HER DOWN.

GAH!

!


THE LEG TRIP'S NOT WORK-ING?!
FINE, THEN...

I'VE GOTTA ATTACK QUICK-LY!
IPPON !
THIS ISN'T JUDO, YOU KNOW...

HOOK
MAKI, SHE'S GONNA DO AN ARMBAR!
SHOOTO